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Warily, Germany and Japan Sort Out Their Changing Ties

Tokyo Still Backs Away From Assisting Moscow

By Steven Brull International Herald Tribune TOKYO — Before Germany was reunified and began to look beyond its wartime past, the Japanese felt a strong, if unspoken, solidarity with Germans.

penultimate stop of a two-week Asian tour that is seen in Japan as evidence of Bonn's expanding interest in the region. On one hand, Tokyo wants to build a new and closer political dialogue with a nation that, like Japan, will play a growing role in maintaining the post-Cold War order.

Bonn's Feelings Mingle Mystery, Fear and Envy

By Brandon Mitchener International Herald Tribune FRANKFURT — As their once-model economies decline day by day, Germany and Japan are watching each other closely for any insights that could lead to recovery.

competition that makes the Asian challenge increasingly hard to ignore. It therefore comes as no surprise that Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who on Friday begins his first visit to Japan in seven years, arrives accompanied by a handful of German industrialists eager to listen and learn, not just complain about a nagging trade imbalance.

Clinton Sets First Summit With Yeltsin For April 4

Announcement Signals Importance U.S. Puts On Reforms in Russia

By John M. Goshko Washington Post Service GENEVA — The United States and Russia announced Thursday that Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris N. Yeltsin will hold a one-day summit meeting on April 4, and the two governments said they had decided that conditions were right to reconvene the stalled Middle East peace talks in April.

Clinton Gives The Go-Ahead For Airdrops To Bosnians

By Thomas L. Friedman New York Times Service WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton announced Thursday that U.S. military transports would soon begin dropping humanitarian aid into remote areas of Bosnia and would spread the food around to all the warring factions — Muslims, Serbs and Croats.



A group of mourners in Sarajevo praying at the grave of Almedena Seta, a 2-year-old Muslim girl who was killed when a shell fired by a Serbian tank hit her building.

Child's Death: Random Shell, or Ramadan Message?

By Peter Maass Washington Post Service SARAJEVO — A broken clock in Senadin Seta's kitchen shows the time of 4:50. That was when a Serbian tank shell smashed through the ceiling.

where his life lay in ruins, shattered like the ceiling. The room was filled with dust kicked up by the blast. "My wife was screaming. She cried that our daughter had been hurt," he recalled wearily soon after the attack.

Mr. Seta's wife was lying on a stretcher. She had been hit in the leg by shrapnel. She knew what had happened, that her only child was dead. There was a long wail, and then the cry that many Sarajevo mothers have pierced the cold air with: "Why didn't God take me instead of my child?"

Just Call It High Tidiness Team Will Go Up Everest and Gather Rubbish Discarded by Other Climbers

By Barry James International Herald Tribune PARIS — Question: Why should anyone want to clean the garbage from the top of the world's highest mountain? Answer: Because it's there.

Kiosk Mobutu Warned On Zaire Captives

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The United States said Thursday that it would hold President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire responsible for members of the transitional government being held captive by troops in Kinshasa.



SOMALI FACE-OFF — A Nigerian UN soldier ordering Somalis to raise their arms in Mogadishu on Thursday as Somali gunmen kept up their attacks. Page 2.

Italy's Scandal Hits Deeper Still

By Alan Cowell New York Times Service MILAN — Italy's corruption scandal gnawed further into the country's business and political elite Thursday with the resignation of a leading politician who had promoted himself as an emblem of probity.

Table with financial data: Dow Jones (Up 8.64, 3,365.14), Trib Index (Up 0.23%, 91.49), The Dollar (New York, 1.6345, 1.6255), DM (1.432, 1.431), Yen (117.37, 117.60), FF (5.551, 5.52).

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Somali Bands Challenge Coalition Troops in Capital

By Stuart Auerbach
Washington Post Service

MOGADISHU, Somalia — For the second straight day, Somali gunmen on Thursday defied the might of more than 30,000 U.S. and allied troops and fired on United Nations offices, compounds of aid organizations and hotels, and in the vicinity of the U.S. diplomatic mission.

There were no reports of casualties among the international aid workers or U.S. diplomats, but three U.S. Marines and two Nigerian soldiers were wounded. There were no clear reports of Somali casualties.

Massive firepower from U.S. and allied forces failed to stem the persistent gunfire from roving bands of Somalis armed with light weapons and machine guns for most of the day. As suddenly as it began, the shooting stopped at about 3 P.M. when one of the city's leading warlords, General Mohammed Farrah Aidid, showed how much control he still wields over

the city when loudspeakers broadcast an appeal from him for peace and calm.

"He was flexing his power," said Marine Colonel Fred Peck, the military spokesman.

General Aidid appeared to have instigated the outbursts on Wednesday and Thursday in broadcasts over his party's radio station. On Wednesday, he accused the United States and the United Nations of playing favorites in their treatment of the country's warlords and on Thursday he blamed five Somali deaths on Wednesday on "trigger happy" U.S. troops. Colonel Peck said both allegations were unfounded.

The fighting over the past two days demonstrated the tenuous hold that the United States and their allies have over this country and how much trouble a UN force of fewer men will have when it takes over in the next few months.

Although Colonel Peck said the two days of disruptions were unlikely to slow the withdrawal of Ameri-

can troops in favor of the UN force, diplomats conceded privately that it appeared unlikely that the United States will be able to meet a self-imposed mid-April deadline for the pullout of all but 5,000 troops.

Already, the transfer of command of troops from the United States to Belgium in the port city of Kismayu, scheduled for Monday, has been delayed because of an incident there that Colonel Peck said triggered the fighting here.

In Kismayu, forces loyal to an archenemy of General Aidid, General Mohammed Said Hersi Morgan, were able to slip past U.S. and Belgian troops on Monday and grab a few blocks of the city from a faction controlled by Colonel Omar Jess, an ally of General Aidid. On Thursday, responding to an ultimatum by U.S. authorities, 60 of General Morgan's men left Kismayu for a camp in a town 145 kilometers (90 miles) away.

Nonetheless, in the world of Somali clan politics,

where any sign of weakness is pounced on by rivals, General Morgan's action required a strong reaction from General Aidid.

"He had to do something or his followers would think he is weak," said a Somali businessman.

General Aidid also was able to demonstrate that he remains a powerful figure despite the disarming of his fighting force.

Shooting began here Thursday before dawn when Nigerian soldiers on the roof of the Sahafi Hotel, where foreign journalists and senior German diplomats are staying, said they were fired on by snipers hiding in buildings across the street.

Soon after the shooting stopped, U.S. Marines on foot and in amphibious assault vehicles swept house-to-house through the neighborhood of the hotel searching for weapons. The Marines met no resistance.

Palestinians Hopeful On Talks but Demand End to Deportee Crisis

By Clyde Haberman
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Although withholding their official response to an American and Russian call for a new round of Israeli-Arab peace talks in April, Palestinian negotiators said Thursday that they hoped for a quick resolution of the deportees crisis so they would be able to attend.

Other parties to the peace negotiations — Israel, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon — also did not respond immediately to the Americans and Russians, who technically are co-sponsors of the talks even though Moscow is clearly the junior partner.

But, unlike the Palestinians, those countries are not a big question mark. Judging from their public statements during the just-completed, swing through the region by Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher, they seem certain to say yes, and the only issue is when.

"I'm glad," the Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, said Thursday night. "It is a right move in the right direction." Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he would respond only after receiving a formal invitation, but according to another official, "We are confident that all the parties will come, and we look forward to it."

The main issue now is what the Palestinians will say. Their leaders in the occupied territories of West Bank and Gaza have most upbeat assessments since Israel's mid-December banishment of more than 400 accused Islamic militants to Lebanon.

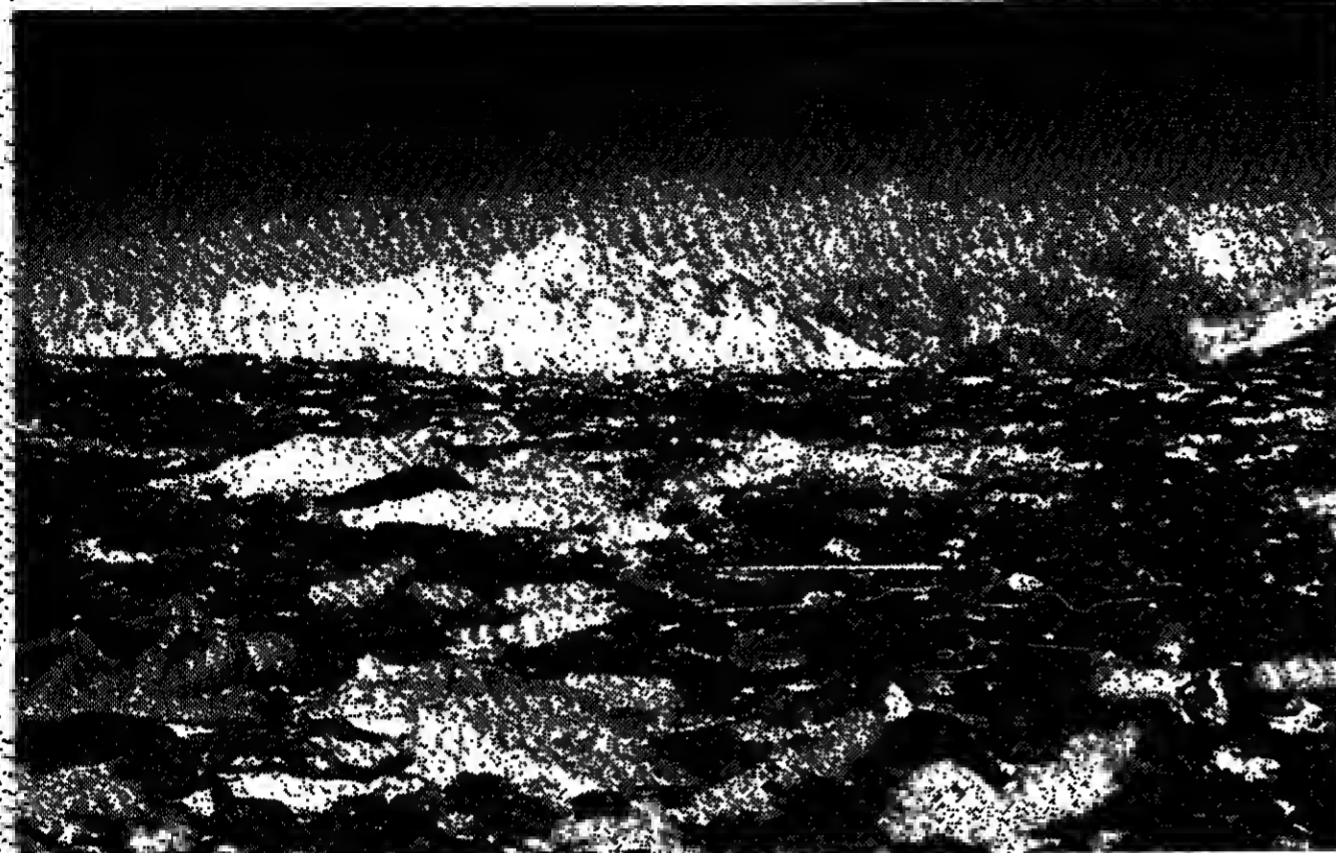
"I certainly hope that we will be able to participate," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation. But she added that new U.S. proposals to deal with the deportations and other important matters for the Palestinians were still being discussed and had to be settled first.

"I think if all the points and all the ideas raised are accepted as they are," Mrs. Ashrawi said, "then the chances are very good indeed" that Palestinian negotiators will attend the next peace round in Washington, No. 9 in a series of thus-far inconclusive sessions.

In the view of foreign diplomats here, the U.S.-Russian announcement has put added pressure on the Palestinians to say yes so that they will not be isolated from other Arab delegations.

The Syrians in particular are eager to move beyond the deportations and get on with what they consider the more important objective of negotiating a peace agreement with Israel that would give them back the Golan Heights.

Apparently, Israeli residents on the Golan hear that such an arrangement is now a more distinct possibility than ever before, for they stepped up anti-government protests during the Christopher visit to Jerusalem this week, warning that any yielding of territory would harm Israeli security.



The field of discarded oxygen canisters and other debris that a French-Nepalese team will attempt to clear from the slopes of Everest.

LITTER: Team Will Go Up Everest to Bring Back Other Climbers' Junk

(Continued from page 1)

fiber. The litter will be lowered to a base camp at 5,400 meters, then loaded onto the backs of yaks, taken to the closest airfield, at Luckla, and flown to Kathmandu for disposal.

The garbage is only a part of the junk left on the mountains, including the wreckage of two Italian helicopters, but most of it is under deep snow cover and does not offend the eye. Because of the extreme cold and the lack of oxygen

at that elevation, the oxygen canisters do not rust, and organic material does not decompose.

Mr. Royer, who is supervising the building of the sleds in Chamoin, France, said the operation inverts the usual pyramidal structure of Himalayan expeditions. Instead of having a huge support team supporting a couple of climbers at the summit, the clean-up operation will have a few people in the lower camps supporting a large number at the top.

"There will be 40 Sherpas working at 8,000 meters, a feat totally without precedent in the history of climbing," Mr. Royer said. "And the operative word is 'working,' something no one has ever done before at that altitude. At 8,000 meters, all you normally think about is surviving."

The \$740,000 expedition is being organized on behalf of the Nepalese government by Dolma, a French-based consortium of climbers and film-makers, who are planning to make at least four television documentaries on the project as well as carry out medical experiments on the effects of working at high altitudes. The project also is supported by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Mr. O'Neil said it was "beyond belief" that mountaineers could have created such a mess. "In future," he added, "the rule is going to be that what goes up must come down."

U.S. Is Redefining Nuclear Deterrence Terrorist Nations Targeted

By Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Nebraska — Here on the frozen Midwestern prairie, an American general is devising a new strategy of nuclear deterrence.

Neither President Bill Clinton nor Defense Secretary Les Aspin has been advised yet, but General Lee Butler and his planners at the U.S. Strategic Command, the nerve center of the U.S. nuclear strike force, are in the early stages of building and testing computer models that could enable Mr. Clinton to aim nuclear weapons at Third World nations that threaten the interests of the United States or its allies.

Specialists in the timing of missiles at this base just south of Omaha still cast a wary eye toward the former Soviet republics. Mindful of the diminishing threat from that quarter, however, they are also redefining the concept of nuclear deterrence to include the possible use of the country's ultimate power against terrorist states or rogue leaders who threaten to use their own nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

"Our focus now is not just the former Soviet Union but any potentially hostile country that has or is seeking weapons of mass destruction," said General Butler, 53, a former political science professor at the Air Force Academy known for his thoughtful approach to long-range planning.

While General Butler casts his notions in the language of a military intellectual, there are also concerns about bureaucratic survival. His command, one of the most important to the Cold War military, is swiftly losing its place at the head of the line as the Soviet missile threat recedes.

General Butler said he had not yet consulted with Mr. Aspin or his senior aides about his ideas, but wanted to prepare the concept in anticipation of their eventual review of his command's relevance. Senior White House aides say they are interested in discussing General Butler's planning, but have been too busy with other matters in their first few weeks in office.

General Butler and his planners emphasize that the chances are remote that Washington would use nuclear weapons against a terrorist state. They also say they are merely refining procedures for designating targets to give the president and the defense secretary. But the officers

say that having these options available and known to adversaries is at the heart of the new concept.

"Deterrence may not work in the old Soviet-American terms, but I'm convinced that having nuclear weapons still matters," General Butler said in a four-hour interview. "It's not a mistake that Saddam Hussein never used chemical or biological weapons in the Persian Gulf War."

He acknowledged that deterrence might not work at all against terrorists who acquired a nuclear weapon, and he said that weakness of deterrence made efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear devices that much more important.

General Butler said the new concept aims to be flexible and respond to changing threats within 48 hours. It will also have to deal with political hurdles, environmental dangers, risks to civilians and other considerations that Cold War planners did not worry about.

If General Butler's planning is accepted, senior civilian policy planners in Washington would decide in which countries to select targets. But Strategic Command officials say they can develop the targeting mechanisms in advance.

"We can do planning for generic targets without having to have specific coordinates or exact names," said Colonel Leon Moses, a senior planner on General Butler's staff. "Our adaptive planning efforts are aimed at providing the secretary of defense and the president with strategic options for use of nuclear or nonnuclear weapons in the face of such threats."

This is not to say the former Soviet republics have been forgotten. Forty feet underground here, military controllers practice the same ritual 10 times a day — their response to a nuclear attack.

Military controllers here still rehearse nuclear strikes with launching officers who work in subterranean silos housing 550 long-range, nuclear-tipped missiles able to hit Russia in about 30 minutes. They still practice aboard the 12 to 14 Trident or Poseidon submarines, each bearing scores of nuclear warheads, that ply the Atlantic and Pacific.

"Intentions and capability are two very different things," said Major Gary Moore, airborne battle staff director for a plane that would serve as one flying command post in an all-out war. "As long as there is that capability out there, Stratcom has a very important mission."

WORLD BRIEFS

Yeltsin Proposals Stall in Parliament

MOSCOW (Reuters) — The Russian parliament slogged President Boris N. Yeltsin on Thursday, refusing to discuss his proposals for a constitutional accord and dragging its feet over tackling a crisis of authority paralyzing Russian politics.

Ruslan I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Congress of People's Deputies and Mr. Yeltsin's main rival, had no difficulty persuading deputies to postpone formal discussion of the proposed accord and put off moves to call Russia's supreme legislature to break the deadlock until March 4.

Mr. Yeltsin's camp sought to keep up the pressure by pushing ahead with preparations for a controversial referendum that he hopes will decide who rules Russia, president or parliament. Itar-Tass news agency said a senior Yeltsin aide, Mikhail Poltoranin, said in Omsk that the referendum, scheduled for April 11, would definitely go ahead; Mr. Yeltsin sees the referendum as a way to halt the steady erosion of his power by parliament. Many senior politicians and leaders of Russia's ethnic regions say it would be destabilizing and could break up the country.

2 Rightist Youths Jailed in Dresden

DRESDEN, Germany (Reuters) — Police have arrested two youths suspected of crushing a man under a minivan during an attack by a rightist gang on a youth club here.

Officials said Thursday that the youths had been accused of overturning the minivan onto the man, who was critically injured. The suspects, who were not identified, were arrested after a weekend assault by about 40 skinheads and other rightist youths. The police said the youths had been seeking revenge for an earlier clash with young leftists in Dresden. It was the latest in a series of clashes between rightist and leftist gangs in Germany, sparked in part by more than a year of attacks by neo-Nazis and other rightists on foreigners.

China Denies Beating of Reporter

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese government denied Thursday that it was responsible for the beating of an American reporter and said no further investigation would be made.

"There was no such thing as police brutality," a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Li Jianying, said when asked about the ABC News correspondent Todd Carroll. "After this incident occurred last year we conducted investigations on the matter and provided a timely account. The case was closed long ago."

Mr. Carroll suffers back and neck pains and walks with difficulty from a beating at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on June 3 last year while covering the third anniversary of the suppression of the democracy movement, according to a letter submitted to the ministry by the Foreign Correspondents Club of Beijing.

For the Record

More than 10,000 people marched in the center of Yerevan, the Armenian capital, Thursday to demand the resignation of President Levon Ter-Petrossian in a demonstration called by the opposition. (AFP)

Senegal's president, Abdou Diouf, appeared to be winning easily over his challenger, Abdoulaye Wade, according to partial results of Sunday's election that were published Thursday. (AP)

Corrections

Because of an editing error, an article in Thursday's edition incorrectly identified Kim Campbell, the Canadian defense minister, as a man.

Because of a composing room error, the Amex stock quotations were missing from some editions Thursday, and the Nasdaq quotations were mislabeled. The IHT regrets the annoyance. Readers desiring correct versions of either table can obtain them by writing to Financial News Statistics, International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, F-92521 Neuilly Cedex, France.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Trains were late Thursday and so were thousands of drivers, as a snow storm held part of Austria and the neighboring Czech Republic in its grip for the second day. In Vienna, 1,600 men shoveling snow for the city failed to make much of a dent in the drifts that stranded cars and trucks and blocked streets and buses. (AP)

French farmers dumped potatoes to close part of the Lille-Paris A1 autoroute Thursday and blockaded several other roads in northern France to protest a drop in potato prices due to overproduction. (AFP)

Scandinavian Airlines System said it would expand service to the Baltic region starting this summer. SAS said it planned 52 flights a week to destinations including St. Petersburg and Tallinn, Estonia. (Reuters)

The police are warning drivers in Poland not to stop at night in isolated areas after a sharp increase in robberies. Last year, several dozen people were killed in a total of 250 armed robberies, up from just 15 attacks in 1991, according to media reports. (Reuters)

Japan Airlines plans to fit an air-sampling device on its planes to monitor the effects of global warming, a JAL spokesman said Thursday. The device would measure the density of carbon dioxide and methane gas at altitudes of 10,000 to 12,000 meters (33,000 to 40,000 feet) on some regular commercial flights. (Reuters)

China has suspended AIDS testing for travelers crossing from Hong Kong into Guangdong Province, an official report said Thursday. Authorities began random testing of non-Chinese visitors in January as part of an attempt to stem an increase in AIDS cases in Guangdong, where prostitution and intravenous drug use are on the increase. (AP)

Air France ground staff at Frankfurt airport began the first in a planned series of one-day strikes at German airports to support demands for negotiated wage agreements, the German news agency DPA said, resulting in slight delays of five flights. (UPI)

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Natural Law Party

in 35 Countries

The Natural Law Party was formed first in Great Britain during the last general election, and the Natural Law Party has participated in general elections in the USA, Croatia, and New Zealand.

The Natural Law Party is currently preparing for elections in Australia, France, Italy, Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and Austria, and Natural Law Parties are being formed in many other countries, including Japan and Thailand.

The goal of the Natural Law Party — a perfect government through the support of Natural Law

The goal of the Natural Law Party is to create a perfect government in every country through the support of Natural Law by creating a coherence-creating group of Vedic scientists (scientists of consciousness), who specialize in developing optimum mind-body co-ordination, and who specialize in neutralizing stress and crime in the country.

The Natural Law Party, who elected into power will form a government of the most talented people in each area of national life, such as education, health, business and industry, law, rehabilitation, defence, foreign affairs, etc. The Natural Law Party aims at forming a truly national government, because party governments do not do justice to the whole population. They are not even able to satisfy all the supporters of their own party.

Success based on the full scientific knowledge of Natural Law

Looking to the ideals and performance of all the party governments in every country, there is widespread dissatisfaction with the ruling parties because of corruption, inefficiency, inability to fulfil promises, inability to satisfy everyone, and the growth of problems in every field of society. The Natural Law Party is the only political party in the world based on the full scientific knowledge of Natural Law and based on programmes for every field of society (education, health, economics, law and order, defence, etc.) that are scientifically validated to be successful and effective.

The Natural Law Party is capable of fulfilling the need of every country because Natural Law is nourishing and evolutionary to all people alike in all parts of the world. Natural Law silently governs the whole universe with perfect orderliness and without a noise. The Natural Law Party has the ability to structure a government on a par with the government of Nature-quiet and nourishing to all.

Responsible and successful people in every country joining the Natural Law Party

In every country, responsible people in society are becoming members of the Natural Law Party, and the most successful people in each constituency are offering themselves to be candidates of the Natural Law Party in the forthcoming general elections in their country. This is the time when the successful people in each country have the chance to form a government of the Natural Law Party. Everyone in the country is realizing that he is a citizen of a free country where he has the power to elect the government of his choice, and he is realizing that his vote is a powerful vote; it may be a decisive vote in forming the government.

A vote for opposing parties is a negative vote — a vote for conflict and chaos

Every voter in every country is realizing that a vote for any of the parties who oppose one another is not only a wasted vote; it is a negative vote, contributing towards conflict and chaos in the country. Everyone realizes that parties who have proved their failure in government should not be given a further chance.

Politics should be a pious profession. It should be in the hands of knowledgeable, competent, and honest people. It should not be a commercial undertaking, using political power for personal gain. Voting should not be guided by friendship, which has a very narrow area of purposefulness. Consideration of competence should be the primary judgment of every voter.

Participation in the Natural Law Party — the supreme act of national patriotism

Natural Law and the Natural Law Party are the most genuine fields of interest for every responsible person in the country. Successful and responsible people in every country are realizing that their participation in the Natural Law Party is really the supreme act of national patriotism: that they can create a really perfect government through the support of Natural Law and through the most complete scientific knowledge of Natural Law. Otherwise they will have to continue to suffer from the inadequacies and failures of their government. The failure of a government is the failure of every voter in the country-who rashly and inadvisedly brought that government to power.

The Natural Law Party — the one perfect party capable of forming a perfect government

The Natural Law Party is the one perfect party fully supported by science and virtue to satisfy the people of all walks of life, all religions, and the purposes of all political parties, and capable of fulfilling all responsibilities of a perfect government, because Natural Law is a proven system of government, perpetually governing the entire universe throughout the span of time.

Any ruling party in any European country, if not carefully chosen by the people, will create a government that is not only a nuisance to the country, but which will also infiltrate failure, frustration, and problems into the neighbouring countries. Particularly in Europe, the voters have realized that their responsibility does not end with their national borders; it extends to the whole continent.

The voters in each country are also realizing that the British people did not respond to the call of the Natural Law Party in Britain. From the time of the British general election, the government has been facing increasing problems.

The voters in every country are not going to miss the opportunity to elect a Natural Law Party government.

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Nuclear-Export Control In Russia Called Weak

By R. Jeffrey Smith
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Russia has yet to create an effective system for controlling exports of sensitive military equipment and technologies related to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, according to R. James Woolsey Jr., the director of central intelligence.

Although Russian leaders have strongly supported enactment of such controls, "the June of large, illegal profits" and "legal, personnel and funding problems" are slowing government efforts to block the spill of Russian arms and military know-how to other nations, Mr. Woolsey said.

In testimony Wednesday before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Mr. Woolsey said proliferation problems existed worldwide. But he emphasized the special dangers created by the collapse of the Soviet Union.

On the positive side, Mr. Woolsey said, the Central Intelligence Agency has received no "credible reporting" that nuclear arms or significant quantities of weapon-grade nuclear materials have been exported from Russia. He also said that "under current circumstances, there is little prospect for a failure of control" over Russia's nuclear arms, including the 3,000 strategic warheads still on the territory of Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus.

He said, however, that the intelligence community was worried about the fate of these strategic weapons in the coming 10 years, when they are supposed to be dismantled under a U.S.-Soviet arms treaty. Mr. Woolsey said Russia in this period was likely to suffer "mounting political difficulties, widespread violence on its borders and the possibility of disruptions inside Russia itself."

Lawrence Gershwin, the CIA's national intelligence officer for strategic programs, said that while all missile-mounted warheads remained firmly under Russian control, the certainty of Russia's possession and control of bomber warheads at military bases inside Ukraine was less clear.

"We don't think there is much chance at all today that Ukraine could, in fact, use the bombers it has with nuclear warheads on board."

While no Russian nuclear design information has yet been exported, Mr. Woolsey said, Russia's emigration and customs agencies are incapable of monitoring the potential flight of "more than the most critical personnel" to Third World nations pursuing chemical, nuclear or biological weapons.

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FIRST 100 DAYS / MISSING APPOINTMENTS

POLITICAL NOTES

Public Support for Clinton Rises to 63%

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's approval rating has climbed nine percentage points since early last week, bolstered by indications of strong public support for his economic program.

Congressional Leaders Opt for Pay Freeze

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders agreed to freeze salaries of lawmakers and their staffs next year in line with President Bill Clinton's proposal to drop a 1994 cost-of-living increase for other federal employees.

Anxious to avoid the wrath of voters for taking a pay increase while denying raises to other federal workers, lawmakers indicated that they will go along with their leaders' decision.

"It's bad policy, it's bad politics," said Senator John B. Breaux, Democrat of Louisiana, referring to the prospect of receiving pay increases that were being denied to other federal workers.

Library of Congress Plans Some User Fees

WASHINGTON — For the first time in its 193-year history, the Library of Congress is proposing to charge the public for a broad array of information services.

The library has asked Congress to allow it to charge users for such new services as computer access to the contents of its 100 million-item collection and for searches of commercial electronic databases.

Tax Proposal Dropped From Health Package

WASHINGTON — The White House health care task force has abandoned a politically sensitive proposal to tax health benefits that workers receive from employers, previously a key element of an emerging tax package to help finance national health care reform.

The reason, sources said, is the opposition of Hillary Rodham Clinton, who chairs the presidential Task Force on National Health Care Reform. The proposal had been drawing growing opposition from a coalition of labor, business and insurance industry representatives.

Quote/Unquote

Senator Trent Lott, a Mississippi Republican: "The greatest risk for Republicans is not that we speak up. The worst thing for us is to stand mute and not say anything. Then you become irrelevant."

Clinton Aides Frustrated at Slow Pace of Filling Jobs

By Douglas Jehl

WASHINGTON — Some cabinet officers and others in the Clinton administration are expressing frustration with the time-consuming efforts by the White House to add diversity and otherwise influence selections for top government posts.

Some of the cabinet members blame fine-tuning by the White House for compounding a process that is already slower than that of President Bill Clinton's recent predecessors.

To fill 290 top government jobs subject to Senate confirmation, Mr. Clinton has so far submitted just 30 formal nominations. That is only about half the pace of Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan in the first month of their presidencies, and only slightly better than that of George Bush, who had many fewer vacancies in fill because he kept a large number of Reagan officials in place.

At most government departments, there is no Clinton-appointed backup person to step in if a top official is away or ill, as occurred this week when Defense Secretary Les Aspin was hospitalized with heart problems.

To fill the void, the top officials at the State Department, the Pentagon, the Treasury and some other departments have quietly hired as temporary employees or consultants many of the people expected to be named to top posts.

Such shadow appointees lack full authority in departmental decisions, which leaves much day-to-day management in the hands of civil servants and Bush administration holdovers.

At the State Department, Strobe Talbott, the designated ambassador-at-large for Russian affairs, was permitted to join Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher on his current overseas tour only after a leading Republican on the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee granted him a special exception to a rule barring officials from such trips until their appointments are confirmed by the Senate.

Such uneasy arrangements have made many Democrats uncomfortable. Representative Patricia Schroeder of Colorado, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said she remained concerned that without Clinton appointees officially in place there

would be "too few civilians" taking part in the coming Pentagon debates over military spending.

The Clinton White House is not the first to claim a role in selecting those who will fill government jobs below cabinet rank. But it has been much more assertive than its recent predecessors in rejecting lists submitted by cabinet officers and insisting upon its own choices, even at the assistant secretary rank.

Cabinet officers and other senior officials have not voiced their frustration in public. But administration aides said that some had made plain their exasperation in conversations with advisers and White House officials.

Among those said to be most dissatisfied are Mr. Aspin, Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy and Transportation Secretary Federico F. Pena. In an interview this week, Mr. Pena hinted at his discontent in recounting that while he had submitted "a whole page of names" to the White House, he had been reminded repeatedly that "they're presidential appointments."

Mr. Pena was then quoted as saying that he and aides were "working with the White House in trying to get some of these names out so we can start making some appointments."

interviewed on the subject again. But other officials said other cabinet secretaries had encountered similar obstacles. They said Mr. Aspin had been advised that his first choices to top Pentagon jobs included too few women.

The officials also said that Henry G. Cisneros, the secretary of housing and urban development, had been told that his list included the names of too many New Yorkers.

Without discussing those specific cases, Dee Dee Myers, the White House press secretary, acknowledged that scrutiny by Clinton aides had contributed to delays.

Other administration officials said they feared that the process would remain cumbersome. For one thing, they said, the fact that public concerns about government officials had widened to include such matters as child care had added to the officials' burdens in scrutinizing potential nominees.

New Class in Congress Sets Deficit As Priority

By Karen Tumulty and William J. Eaton

WASHINGTON — If there was any doubt about it before, there is none now: The largest crop of first-term lawmakers in a half-century has made it clear to both their own leadership and President Bill Clinton that business is not as usual on Capitol Hill.

Congressional pressure, largely from these newcomers, forced Mr. Clinton this week to make an abrupt tactical reversal on his economic plan, putting deficit reduction ahead of increased spending.

It was the clearest evidence yet that a new dynamic has taken root on Capitol Hill.

For the first time in 12 years, the Democrats have the power to enact an economic agenda. At the same time, the public is in the mood for change, particularly after Ross Perot struck a surprisingly resonant chord with a presidential campaign based primarily on deficit reduction.

Toward those ends, voters have sent Washington its first Democratic president in 12 years and 110 new House members — 64 of them Democrats.

"We are clearly the people who are the most sensitive to how the public is responding," said one of the first-termers, Representative Peter Deutch, Democrat of Florida.

"We're going to be in the front lines in two years," he said, referring to running for re-election, adding: "Meanwhile, Ross Perot is out there. His presence is being felt in everything we do."

If the new lawmakers have a credo, Mr. Deutch said, it is, "Just because you are a Democrat doesn't mean you are an economic fool."

Of course, it remains to be seen whether enthusiasm for deficit reduction will subside, once the specifics of Mr. Clinton's program and the pain it will entail are completely understood. Then, skeptics predict, public approval ratings will plummet, chastening today's bold deficit-cutters, and enabling entrenched interests to beat them back into submission.

"Wait until you are 30 percent in the polls," said Ken Duberstein, who was President Ronald Reagan's chief congressional liaison and who appeared Wednesday at a Committee on the Constitutional System and Brookings Institution forum on government gridlock.

But for now, it appears that the fiscally conservative newcomers have been able to form what constitutes a working majority with the moderate and conservative Democrats, who have been preaching the deficit-reduction religion for years.



WOMEN OF THE WORLD — Women who are permanent representatives to the United Nations prior to a recent luncheon given by the American representative, Madeleine K. Albright. They are, from left, Claudia Fritsche of Liechtenstein, Robin Mavala of Western Samoa, Louise Frechette of Canada, Narcisca Escaler of the Philippines, Jean George of Trinidad and Tobago, Ambassador Albright, Akmaral Arystanbekova of Kazakhstan, and Lucille Mathurin Muir of Jamaica.

'Fine,' Aspin Leaves Hospital

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Les Aspin walked out of the hospital Thursday, smiling broadly. "I feel fine," he said after four nights in the Georgetown University Hospital's coronary care unit.

Bundled in a down jacket as he left the hospital and entered a limousine for a police-escorted ride to his home nearby, Mr. Aspin said he had "fully recovered" and would be at his desk in the Pentagon later in the day.

Mr. Aspin said he would return to his full-time schedule Friday and

that there would be no change in his job routine. But asked about his customary long workday, he said, "We'll have to give and take a little on that." He also said he would give up playing squash.

Mr. Aspin, 54, suffers from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a thickening of the heart muscle. The condition was aggravated by a typhoid inoculation he had been given by military doctors Saturday.

Earlier Thursday, the White House said President Bill Clinton was confident that Mr. Aspin would be "fully capable" of fulfilling his duties. (AP, Reuters)

Abortion Pill Maker Wants U.S. Market

By Philip J. Hilts

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The president of the French company that makes the abortion pill RU486 has told the U.S. commissioner of food and drugs that he believes the drug should be made available in the United States.

The commissioner, Dr. David A. Kessler, and the pharmaceutical executive, Edouard Sakiz of Roussel-Uclaf, held a meeting Wednesday that may signal the first step toward bringing the abortion drug to market in the United States.

Dr. Kessler said Mr. Sakiz was willing to discuss how the drug could be marketed by another company or research institution under an agreement with his company.

Marketing of the abortion pill has been long sought by women's groups and long opposed by anti-abortion groups. The company had previously refused to seek approval to market RU486 because of what it described as the anti-abortion climate in the United States, notably the opposition to abortion expressed by Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

In addition, anti-abortion groups said they would boycott the U.S. subsidiary of Roussel's parent, Hoechst AG, if the drug were marketed in the United States.

By contrast, President Bill Clinton said during the presidential campaign that American women should have the option of using RU486. He repeated that assertion last month when he signed five memorandums revoking a decade of abortion-related bans imposed by the Republican administrations.

The Food and Drug Administration has said in the past that it would take rapid action on an application to market RU486. If the application process went smoothly, it could take 18 months to get the drug to market after an application was filed.

The drug is now available only in government clinics under strict guidelines in France, Britain and

Sweden. About 120,000 women have taken it, in what amounts to one of the largest drug safety tests in industry history before approval has been sought in the United States. It has proved effective in 96 percent of cases.

"I told Mr. Sakiz that if there is a safe and effective alternative to a surgical procedure for abortion, American women should have access to that alternative," Dr. Kessler said.

Away From Politics

After six years of one of the most severe dry spells in California history, Governor Pete Wilson has declared an end to the drought, officially closing the book on a natural disaster that may forever change the way Californians think about water.

NBC News, for the second time in two weeks, has publicly apologized for inaccurate footage in a report. A Jan. 4 "NBC Nightly News" report on Idaho's Clearwater National Forest was inadvertently accompanied by videotape of dead fish from another forest, the anchor, Tom Brokaw, said. On Feb. 9, the network apologized for rigging a General Motors Corp. pickup truck to blow up for a "Dateline NBC" report on the vehicle's gas tanks.

A federal jury in Rochester, New York, awarded \$107.25 million to relatives of four family members killed in a crash of a plane in 1986. The jury found that the plane's engine, made by Teledyne Continental Motors of California, was defective.

Two policemen who were killed in Compton, California, during a routine traffic stop were shot several times in the head, execution-style, while they lay wounded on the ground and had no chance to pull their guns, the police said.

The federal trial of four police officers accused of violating the civil rights of Rodney G. King got under way in Los Angeles. The case involves the beating of Mr. King, who is black, by white policemen after a high-speed car chase.

California's superintendent of public instruction, Bill Honig, has been sentenced to four years' probation for violating the state's conflict-of-interest law and ordered to repay more than \$330,000 to the state. (LAT, AP, NYT)

N.Y. Problem: Slain Workers Homicide Is Top Cause of Employee Deaths

By Peter Marks

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The leading cause of death for people at work in New York City is not construction accidents, car crashes or machinery malfunctions. It is homicide.

The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, in its first detailed analysis of work-related fatalities for 1991, found that 69 percent of the 177 New York City workers who died of injuries sustained while working were victims of homicide.

The number of slain workers, the bureau found, far exceeded those who died from causes like transportation accidents, falls, fires and explosions.

Nationally, the leading cause of deaths while at work was transportation-related accidents. Samuel M. Ehrenhalt, regional commissioner for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, said the largest share of slain workers in New York — 41 percent — was in retail trade, with about half working in small grocery stores and the rest in clothing outlets, gas stations and other small businesses. Taxi drivers also accounted for a significant number of deaths.

The vast majority of workers slain at work in New York, he said, were shot to death.

"This is strikingly different from what we're seeing in other places," Mr. Ehrenhalt said. "It suggests that if people here were not getting killed on the job in homicides, we would have quite a low rate of fatalities."

With crime a major concern in New York City, the figures did not come as a surprise to many.

Thomas A. Reppetto, who heads the Citizens Crime Commission, a private watchdog group, said: "All through the '40s and '50s, we averaged 300 murders a year. Now, we average 2,000. I don't think anyone is going to be surprised by the figures because we've become inured to the problem of crime."

In recent years, New York City officials have undertaken a number of efforts aimed at reducing crime, including Mayor David N. Dinkins's Safe Streets, Safe City program, which put more police officers on the streets.

City officials assert that such measures have already had an impact. In the first 10 months of last year, they said, homicides declined 9 percent from a year earlier.

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Herald Tribune

A Lifeline for Bosnia

Bill Clinton recognizes what some of America's allies prefer to deny — that the people of Bosnia may starve long before peace can be negotiated. That is why he is about to throw the Bosnians a lifeline, dropping supplies by air to relieve the suffering.

that they included no arms. But in the end, London could not withstand the pressure to do something about the real problem in Bosnia: the starving people under siege.

Training the Workers

President Bill Clinton and his labor secretary, Robert Reich, believe that a sure way to strengthen the economy is to strengthen the American worker. Invest in the skills of the people, and the country will prosper as it competes internationally.

years without much attention to effectiveness. A recent study of the government's largest training program, the Job Training Partnership Act, reveals that disadvantaged youth are not helped at all. The Job Corps, beloved of big city mayors, gets more favorable ratings — but it comes with the steepest price tag.

Mulroney Bows Out

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney may be unpopular at home in Canada, but he has been a good friend to the United States, a close ally on global issues and a strong partner in demolishing trade barriers.

also force the reduction of protectionist provincial barriers within Canada. Mr. Mulroney's popularity began to plunge in the late 1980s, with imposition of an unpopular national sales tax, signs of corruption in high places, and public discontent over the free-trade agreement with Washington.

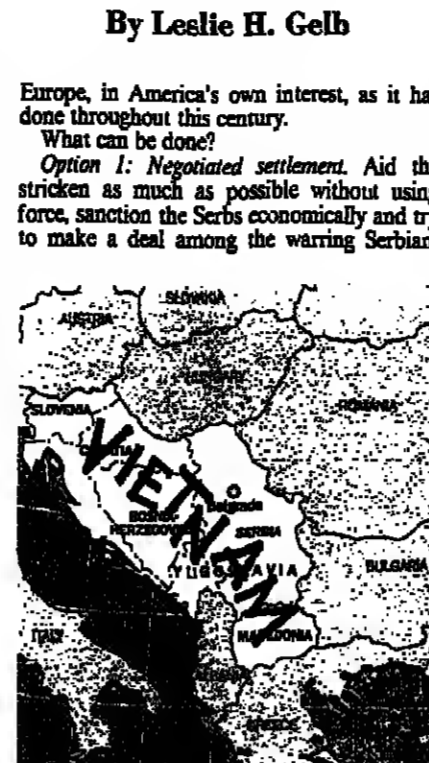
Other Comment

Somalia Going Sour
The spectacle of Somali rioters demonstrating outside the U.S. Embassy compound in Mogadishu and demanding that Americans go home is poor reward for a humanitarian operation that is a credit to this nation.

ton's to finish. The new president can take pride in the fact that untold thousands of Somalis have been saved from starvation and suffering. But a political solution to Somalia's factional civil war is as distant as ever.

Intervention in the Balkans: Examining the Options

NEW YORK — This column will explain U.S. interests and policy options in Bosnia and what I think should be done. The next will show how to get other nations to join in stronger, though limited, action.



By Leslie H. Gelb
Croatian and Muslim factions. This is the Vance-Owen course of fashioning largely autonomous ethnic enclaves policed by outside forces.

Western action, that the West should not become entangled in long-term, large-scale police that the Serbs must be punished and ceding that the Muslims deserve the chance to defend themselves.

For a NATO-Russian UN Intervention to End the War in Bosnia

LONDON — The recent Moscow visit by the U.S. special envoy Reginald Bartholomew highlighted the importance of Russian support for the Clinton administration's policy on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

By Jane M. O. Sharp and Vladimir Baranovsky
keeping action. Worst-case scenarios about what would happen without effective military intervention have proved only too accurate.

in terms of foreign policy. The conservative-nationalist faction of the political class could exploit the situation to make the official line in Moscow openly anti-Western.

kind of liaison between units that we had in World War II. A first task of such an intervention force should be to close the external borders of Bosnia to the influx of additional Croatian and Serbian personnel.

An Extremist Image Would Be Bad for the BJP

NEW DELHI — The forces of the Hindu right are bent on confronting the government. Plans by the main Hindu nationalist party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, to bring a million people to a protest rally in New Delhi on Thursday, despite a government ban, were thwarted by a massive security operation in which police reportedly arrested more than 125,000 supporters of the party throughout the country.

By James Manor
control the more extreme elements in their ranks. The strategy is unwise on two counts. First, it probably will not work. The government is unlikely to fall. On paper, Mr. Rao has minority support in parliament, but in practice he can in most circumstances muster a narrow majority with help from small parties.

It was less associated that Congress was with gangs of political lions. And in recent years it has managed to attract enough leading professionals, academics and retired civil servants to its ranks to appear as the party of restraint.

Even nationalists appealing to historical memory and insisting on Slavic solidarity would have some difficulty arguing against a policy line that, although manifestly designed to punish Serbian war criminals, would also be designed to prevent humiliation of the Serbs en masse and give them their best shot at emerging from this ghastly war with the prospect of rehabilitating their reputation as a civilized people.

Clinton Is Wrong to Launch His Missiles at Airbus

WASHINGTON — Last week, speaking at Boeing's big Seattle plant, President Bill Clinton accused the European Community of unfairly subsidizing the arch-rival Airbus. The message, aimed at the 28,000 Boeing workers slated for layoff due to declining orders, apparently signals a harder line on trade.

By Robert Kuttner
sive military aircraft. But with U.S. manufacturers supplying more than 90 percent of the world's jetliners, an private European company could muster the capital investment to get back into the civilian game.

Industries." She and the president need to talk, lest he begin to sound like the crude protectionist that he is not. One must hope that the Seattle speech was political posturing, not incipient bad policy.

1893: Care for Musicians
LONDON — The Duke of Fife presided at the 155th anniversary festival dinner of the Royal Society of Musicians last night (Feb. 25). The society was instituted in 1738, for the maintenance of old and decayed musicians, and their widows and orphans. Handel bequeathed £1,000 to its funds, and it was at its festivals that Liszt, in 1824, and Mendelssohn five years later, made their first appearance in London.

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سكنا من الامم

OPINION

Russian-American Relations Could Use a Bill & Boris Show

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — At a recent Moscow luncheon hosted by the Russian foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, an octogenarian former sumo wrestler summed up his host's political-diplomatic dilemma. "If you seem to walk in lockstep with America," said Richard Nixon, "you give a weapon to your political opponents to beat you over the head."

By creating connective tissue between the two peoples, Clinton would prepare the way to do business with whoever ultimately follows Yeltsin.

head. If you don't, the American opponents of aid to Russia will beat you over the head. That's why foreign ministers seldom get elected president. Young Mr. Kozyrev has been in Switzerland meeting Secretary of State Warren Christopher. We can hope for a "working summit" in Europe before long between their bosses. Boris Yeltsin, the first president elected by the

Russian people, is in the political-diplomatic bind described by Mr. Nixon. This is the Russian winter of discontent with its leader. He is damned at home for selling out to the West, and damned in the West for throwing reformers from his sled to appease apparatchik wolves.

Worse, rumors are flying that Mr. Yeltsin is off on one of his legendary two-week toots. Some say an occasional bout of drinking is his form of therapy; others say he was boozing gloomily until recently, and is now on vacation drying out; still others who have seen him recently insist that the rumors are lies, and that his "enormous recuperative powers" are both physical and political.

He appears jumpy, less self-assured; mafias and marchers ssp his popularity. He interrupted his vacation to meet with Russian Khasbulatov, speaker of the Russian Parliament, who has been trying to draw power away from the reformist president to the president-in-waiting, but who cannot gain the presidency himself because he is Chechen, not Russian.

President Yeltsin is listlessly defended by Alexander Rutskoi, his vice president, a military man who wants to replace him. A first test of Mr.

Yeltsin's comeback ability may be a referendum in April to see if Russians want a presidential or parliamentary system.

(Melior Sumra, my longtime Investia counterpart now teaching at the University of Minnesota, notes that this expression of democracy could be countered if Mr. Khasbulatov insists on tying it to a vote of confidence in the weakened Mr. Yeltsin.)

Although down, the Russian leader is far from out; he remains more clout than anyone. Americans know that the interests of freedom are best served by the success of the capitalist reformers whose champion remains Boris Yeltsin. How can we help?

First, President Bill Clinton should meet with Mr. Yeltsin quickly in Europe. Russia is no mendicant; it has a bargaining chip in its influence with fellow Slavs in Belgrade. Mr. Yeltsin could improve the Vance-Owen proposal and station Russian troops alongside a new U.S. and NATO force in Macedonia, protecting the Kosovo Albanians and putting muscle into Bosnian war-ending.

At the same time, restructure the debt owed to the United States by Russia in grain-credit debt — it is in default by \$360 million already, with more to come — quietly tied to internal reforms and restraint on arms sales. Make a big public deal out of U.S. humanitarian aid as well as

encouraging oil and gas joint ventures. The summit success would provide a boost for Mr. Yeltsin as a partner, not a puppet, of the United States.

Next, take the Clinton campaign to Russia. Set up a weeklong state visit in late summer, starting in Moscow but barnstorming through the Urals to Siberia. Flatter the Russian people with ringing rhetoric about two great nations in the process of change. Press the flesh; go on television talk shows with Russian kids; answer questions at a town meeting in Novosibirsk. Who is better at this than Bill Clinton? Although he is still inexperienced in global affairs, nobody is more adept at using mass media for the aggressive assertion of humility.

The serious purposes of Mr. Clinton's Russian road show would be to bolster the reformers; to preach protection of minority rights; to show an understanding of the sacrifices required by political change. (Russian change is in the right direction, toward free markets.)

Such a one-two punch — summit followed by state visit — would help ensure America's own planned defense budget cuts. By creating connective tissue between peoples, Mr. Clinton would prepare the way to do business with whoever ultimately follows Mr. Yeltsin.

The New York Times

A Risk: High-Tech Elites Ruling a Jobless Nation

By Jeremy Rifkin

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton spent much of the presidential campaign attacking the trickle-down economic policies of the Reagan-Bush years. Said to say, he seems to be subscribing to an equally damaging economic myth: trickle-down technology.

On Monday, the president offered a 36-page plan to rejuvenate the economy through technology. It calls for a partnership between the government and corporate America to spur high-tech industries.

This technology renaissance would be fueled primarily by transferring billions of research and development

funds from the Pentagon to civilian commercial uses.

Biotechnology, robotics, artificial intelligence, digital imaging and data storage are areas all high on the list.

But instead of reviving the economy, the president's high-tech vision could lead to further unemployment, an erosion of the fortunes of the middle class and even greater disparity in income between the rich and poor.

The last century has seen unparalleled technological innovation. New technologies have increased productivity, quickened growth and provided jobs. Even when technologies replaced human labor, new fields opened up to absorb the displaced work force. When the mechanization of agriculture forced millions of workers off farms in the late 19th century, urban manufacturing industries were waiting to absorb them.

And when automation of the factories forced a second mass dislocation of blue-collar workers in the 1950s, service and white-collar industries were able to take in much of the surplus labor.

Today, new technologies are beginning to force a similar dislocation. The problem is, no new jobs are waiting. One doesn't need to look far to get a glimpse of things to come. The Postal Service plans to cut 47,000 workers by 1995, predicting that computers will be able to read letters and sort mail better than humans.

Similarly, AT&T intends to replace up to 6,000 operators with robotic operators that can distinguish key words of speech. Postal service and AT&T workers are not alone. Most American workers are employed in tasks that can be done by computers, automated machinery and robots.

The Clinton administration hopes to speed up these advances. It wants to construct a high-speed computer network — an information superhigh-

way — that promises to do for communications what the interstate highways did for the flow of goods. "Virtual" communities will increasingly replace "traditional" communities as millions of people carry on the business of daily life — from shopping to banking — over the computer screen, bypassing face-to-face exchanges in the marketplace.

If the Clinton vision succeeds, millions of U.S. workers will be replaced, with little or no prospect of further employment. A 1986 study by Wassily Leontief, a Nobel laureate, and economists at the Institute for Economic Analysis concluded that the demand for clerical and service workers as well as for semi-skilled and unskilled workers will fall with technological innovations.

The role of humans as the most important factor of production is bound to diminish in the same way that the role of horses in agricultural production was first diminished then eliminated by the introduction of tractors," Mr. Leontief wrote. Employment opportunities are likely to increase only among professionals, particularly scientists, engineers, computer specialists, managers and teachers. And their numbers will be small compared with the pool of millions of white- and blue-collar workers who will be permanently displaced.

Worse, even if there were jobs, there's another flaw in the administration's strategy. Though Mr. Clinton and Labor Secretary Robert Reich talk enthusiastically about retraining programs, can we really expect the government to teach an aging population of unemployed white-collar and service employees to compete in the high-tech job market?

None of this is to argue that high technology is without any merit. We would benefit from new pollution control technologies, electric cars and high-speed trains. Yet, the administration proposal for upgrading the economy relies far too heavily on high-technology investment.

Mr. Clinton would do well to concentrate less on the technological infrastructure and more on the human infrastructure. Millions of low-tech jobs could be produced in health care, housing and energy conservation.

If the president doesn't change his emphasis, he runs the risk of creating a new and dangerous America — one in which a small high-tech elite of corporate professionals exists in a nation of the permanently unemployed.

The writer, president of the Foundation on Economic Trends, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cheap Labor, Cheap Fruit: But Is That a Free Market?

Regarding the report "Germany Leads Attack on EC Banana Rules" (Feb. 16) by Brandon Mitchener:

Most banana producers in Latin America are not "farmers who would switch to planting coconuts" but large landowners and corporation-sized businesses. Latin American bananas can be cheap, in part, because of the economies of scale achieved on large estates. Workers on many of these estates are exploited, often permanently indebted to the proprietors. In Latin America, history has put most of the land into the hands of a small number of families, creating large numbers of destitute, landless people who have to work on the estates to stay "alive," or emigrate to urban slums.

Part of the reason African bananas are more expensive is that working conditions in African producer countries are better, workers tend to be treated more like people, and in most African countries, the land belongs to the ordinary farmer. There are therefore fewer landless people to be exploited as a cheap labor, and farmers probably don't intend to give up enough land to permit estates of the size that exist in Latin America.

If the plight of the Latin American

farm laborer enables Europeans to buy bananas dirt cheap, then Europeans are using the denial of Latin American laborers' basic rights to subsidize their consumption. And subsidies are definitely not what the free market is about.

K. DIXON-FYLE
Geneva.

Rush to Self-Immolation

The specter of America self-immolating over the issue of whether employment of aliens disqualifies one from holding public office again raises the question of what kinds of past indiscretions are a bar to public service. I had hoped that the presence of an admitted, albeit qualified, marijuana smoker in the White House had somehow proved that Americans can tolerate a youthful mistake in judgement, or perhaps even minor criminal conduct, in the background of a public servant.

Sadly, instead of stimulating a national debate about real problems or crystallizing standards of conduct for public office seekers, this incident will only provide yet another reason for many Americans to eschew public service.

MARK A. SUMMERS,
Paris.

To Economic Ruin

Regarding "Clinton Gives America The Bad News on Tax: Increases Will Hit All Over \$30,000" (Page One Report, Feb. 17) by Ann Devroy:

Senator Robert Dole says, "That's the kind of 'sacrifice' that will break the back of middle-class America and lead us right into economic ruin."

A strange remark from a person very closely associated with 12 years of Ro-

publican rule, which came very close to leading the United States "right into economic ruin," and have left President Clinton with little room to maneuver.

I think Senator Dole and all "typical" Republicans will be very surprised by the route President Clinton will take. He is not your typical "tax and spend Democrat." But then, I guess Senator Dole and the Republicans have only the usual political slogans left. They had 12 years and "blew it."

BAHRAJ JASHANMAL,
Manama, Bahrain.

Meet John Doe

What is striking about the reaction to the Clinton program is the conscious understanding, good sense and pragmatism of the American citizen compared to the politician's selfish and shortsighted behavior and the media's negative, dim and pedantic attitude.

GEORGES BROU,
St. Orse, France.

Murder, Not Vandalism

Regarding "Vandals and Nazis" (Letters, Feb. 5) by Konrad Thiesmann:

Young vandals in Sweden cannot be compared with neo-Nazis in Germany whose age, by the way, goes far beyond 13-16 years. Perhaps in Sweden one might think of young miscreants shouting Heil Hitler as children seeking attention.

But when packs of such attention-seekers have beaten, trampled and burned to death 17 persons and severely injured a great number more (the latest distraction being attacks on the disabled) then this is not juvenile provocation. It is murder plain and simple, and it comes with such rancorously proclaimed

Nazi programs as the killing of foreigners and Jews to create an "Aryan" race. Any excuses made for these hoodlums are an insult to the victims and their families.

By the way, many a 13-year-old in Hitler's youth movement grew into a fiercely convinced, adult Nazi.

LEONORE SUHL,
Portimao, Portugal.

U.S., Korea and Vietnam

Regarding "War Goals Revisited" (Letters, Feb. 4):

John R. Davis repeats the discredited old clichés about the Korean and Vietnam Wars. When the U.S. entered the Korean war in June 1950, a guerrilla war of incursions by both sides had been going on for more than a year. In "Korea, the Unknown War," Jon Halliday and Bruce Cumings quote an American general as saying, "The South started more battles than did the North."

In state that "in Vietnam we tried to save the people of the South from Northern aggressors" is to show a total misunderstanding of the Vietnam war. According to the Geneva accords of 1954, Vietnam was temporarily divided and an election was to be held between a French-backed government in the South or Ho Chi Minh's government in the North would rule the country. Such a decision was never held. Instead the CIA brought Ngo Dinh Diem to power in a rigged plebiscite in October 1955.

Up to four million people were killed in Korea, and up to two million in Vietnam. In both cases, most of the dead were civilians, and in both cases, the United States was responsible for most of the killing. In both, the United States was seeking to "hold back communism"

in countries that were in the midst of civil struggles.

As with revolutions in which the United States intervened in Central America, the United States may have had "war goals," but they were based on the flimsiest of excuses to interfere in other people's affairs.

LILLIAN WRIGHT,
Santa Eulalia del Rio,
Tliza, Spain.

Remembering Arthur Ashe

Regarding "On the Many Courts, and Off, Arthur Ashe Brought Dignity" (Page One, Feb. 8) by Michael Wilbon:

My wife and I had the privilege of watching Arthur Ashe beat Jimmy Connors to become the Wimbledon champion in 1975. However, we will always remember Arthur Ashe, not as a black man or a champion tennis player, but as the very finest example of a decent human being.

With many thanks to Michael Wilbon for capturing, in his article, our deep feelings of respect for this kind and brave man.

BRIAN CASTLE,
London.

Arthur Ashe was a major hero to many of us growing up in Richmond, Virginia (his birthplace) during the 1960s and 1970s.

He showed us how to force change through determination, skill and a solemn commitment to the universal rights of all men.

We should be grateful for his example.

ANN C. SOUDER,
London.

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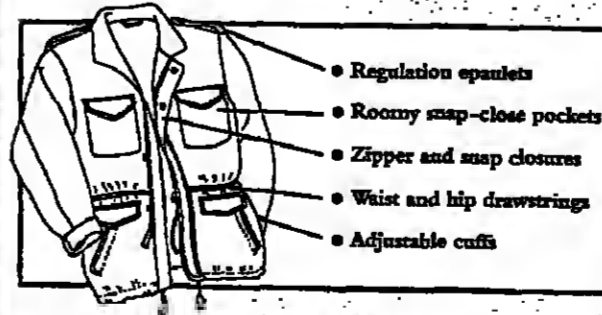
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THE ARTS GUIDE



Clockwise: Photograph by Frederic Brenner at the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, Israel; a detail from Félix Valotton's painting at the Musée d'Orsay, Paris; two busts from the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, and a painting by Rodchenko in Nantes.

Rio's New Club Scene: Male Stripper Shows

By James Brooke

RIO DE JANEIRO — Strategically parked across the street from the Meridien Copacabana hotel, the Scotch Bar flashes its red lights nightly, beckoning tourists to come on over.

On a recent evening, American rap music pounded, imported whisky flowed, strobe lights bounced off mirrors and red vinyl upholstery, and fevered heads reached out to dancers peeling down to their black net underwears.

"Mais, mais," chorused the crowd, asking for more, more. Tatiana, 21, a computer systems analyst from Rio, jumped out of her chair and embraced a dancer, running her fingers through his chest hair.

Rio, a city long synonymous with sensuality, is embracing a new fad: male strip shows for women. No longer a novelty for foreigners, the shows attract almost entirely Brazilian crowds.

In just a few months, about 10 nightclubs in the affluent beach zone have inaugurated clubs para mulheres, or women's clubs, closed to men. Other male strip shows, which opened several years ago for a gay clientele, now also attract women.

The nation's best-watched soap opera, "De Corpo e Alma" (Of Body and Soul), has raised its ratings by adopting a male strip-show subplot. And magazines have taken photo essays on the craze into living rooms nationwide.

As with many fashions in Brazil, the women's clubs have arrived there from the Northern Hemisphere after a lag of several years. Rio's sudden proliferation of women's clubs is explained partly by changing economics and partly by changing sex roles.

Long Brazil's premiere tourist destination, this city of curving beaches and forested mountains has seen international tourist arrivals plummet by half in the last four years, largely because of street crime.

"Tourism has fallen a lot," said Dirlene Mello de Oliveira, who owns the Scotch Bar with her husband, Jonacy. "We don't depend on the women's club, but it's a way of filling the tables during slow hours."

Fueling the spread of the women's clubs is a new sexual assertiveness among women in a Latin society. "All the girls back home have been talking about it," said Carla, 18, a Brazilian tourist, who like many of the women did not want to give her full name.

An aunt determinedly pulled her by the elbow to the door at the end of the show.

AUSTRALIA
Sydney Powerhouse Museum (tel: 21.01.11). To April 18: "Chinuity in Australia: Fantasy in Glass." More than 20 glass sculptures by the American-born artist. The pieces are characterized by their distinctive large size, rich colors and coral-like forms.

AUSTRIA
Vienna Kunsthistorisches Museum (tel: 712.0495). To May 3: "Andy Warhol: 1928-87." More than 100 silk-screen prints, paintings and Pop Art sculptures by the American artist.

IRELAND
Dublin The Irish Museum of Modern Art (tel: 718.6965). To April 19: "Mae Foley: Sculpture." Foley's pieces, comprised of found objects, porcelain, bog oak and slate, explore human spirituality and ancient cultures.

ISRAEL
Jerusalem Beth Hatefutsoth, Museum of the Jewish Diaspora (tel: 548.20.20). To April 30: "Sephardic Itinerary, 1992." Photographs from Frederic Brenner's nine-month journey from the Balkans to the New World, via Europe and Africa, retrace the steps of the Sephardim in exile. To May 4: "In the Footsteps of Mordecai Ananias." Commemorates the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492. The migration of three families are traced through videos, film strips, music and art.

ITALY
Turin Castello di Rivoli (tel: 858.7256). To April 25: "Torino e l'Arte." A study of Turin's role in contemporary culture and art between 1950 and 1970.

JAPAN
Kyoto Takashimaya Grand Hall (tel: 221.8811). To March 2: "Murakami Shiko Exhibition." More than 150 woodblock prints, paintings and paintings on screens celebrate the 30th anniversary of the artist's birth.

NETHERLANDS
Amsterdam Tropenmuseum (tel: 568.82.00). To Aug. 22: "ADIVASI: Het Andes India." In commemoration of the international year for the indigenous people, this exhibit pays tribute to the indigenous of India. Includes drawings, murals, paintings and sculptures.

FRANCE
Paris Musée des Beaux-Arts (tel: 7.35.41.39). To March 20: "Oeuvre Gravé de Goya." More than 200 engravings by Goya, including four series: Caprices, Taurineries, Disparates and Desastres.

RUSSIA
St. Petersburg The State Hermitage Museum (tel: 812.219.65). To April 11: "The George Ortiz Collection." Some 280 masterpieces spanning 30 cultures from the Neolithic age to the late Byzantine period.

SPAIN
Barcelona Fundació Joan Miró (tel: 329.19.06). To March 28: "Wifredo Lam." More than 60 paintings by the Cuban artist.

SWEDEN
Stockholm Nationalmuseum (tel: 8664250). To March 28: "Furniture: Matheson, Chamber, Kändell and Bohlin." Innovative furniture by leading designers of the current century. To April 12: "March and Carrière: Two Symbolist Printmakers." Forty prints by Norwegian and French artists.

SWITZERLAND
Zurich Kunsthaus (tel: 251.6765). To May

2: "From the Treasures of Eurasia: Masterpieces of Ancient Art." More than 170 pieces of ancient art from the Ex-Soviet Union represent 18 different cultures.

UNITED STATES
Chicago The Art Institute (tel: 443.36.00). To May 7: "Marc Chagall: The Jewish Theatre Murals." A famed set of murals on loan from the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.

Houston Museum of Fine Arts (tel: 526.1361). To June 6: "Mexico's Holiest Shrine: Treasures from the Basilica of Guadalupe." Sacred objects from the most important pilgrimage church in Mexico. To June 27: "Imperial Austria: Treasures of Art,

Arms & Armor From the State of Syria." More than 250 Renaissance and Baroque objects. To June 27: "The Cutting Edge: 200 Years of Cut Crystal." Fifteen pieces illustrate the evolution of the art form.

New York The Center for African Art (tel: 566.13.13). To Aug. 15: "Socratic African Art That Consoles and Reveals." More than 100 works from sub-Saharan Africa, including masks, figures, textiles, architectural sculptures and reliquary objects.

Guggenheim Museum (tel: 423.38.40). To May 9: "Photography in Contemporary German Art." Works by 19 German artists who incorporate photography into their work.

Los Angeles The Los Angeles Music Center (tel: 461.2222). To June 27: "The Music of the Americas." A retrospective of the music of the Americas.

London British Museum (tel: 323.85.25). To May 31: "Howard Carter: Before Tutankhamun." A retrospective of the archaeologist's discoveries in Egypt, including diaries, excavation photographs, funerary treasures and antiquities.

Montreal Musée des Beaux-Arts (tel: 285.1600). To March 28: "Grand Siècle." More than 150 paintings by 17th-century French artists, with works by Le Nain, Poussin, Lator, Le Sueur and Le Hyre.

Toronto Art Gallery of Ontario (tel: 977.04.14). To June 20: "Roman Vindicta: Vindicta's photographs document the imperiled existence of the Jewish communities in Lublin, Krakow and Warsaw in the 1930s.

Prague Labkovitz Palace (tel: 57.73.08). To March 28: "The Czech Republic." More than 250 pictures, statues, devotional pieces and graphic art.

Denmark Humlebeak Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (tel: 42.19.07.19). To May 9: "At the Edge of Chaos: New Images of Documents, films and videos from the field of architecture, the visual arts and science.

Lyons Espéran Lyonnais d'Art Contemporain (elec) (tel: 78.42.27.38). To April 30: "A Mes Beaux Yeux." Autoportraits Contemporains." Self-portraits by European and American artists created between 1982 and 1992.

Nantes Musée de Beaux-Arts (tel: 40.41.65.65). To April 18: "L'Avant Garde Russe 1905-25." Chef-d'œuvre des Musées de Russie." From Neo-Impressionism to the Constructivist school of the early '20s, including Malevich, Rodchenko, Kandinsky and Gontcharova.

Paris Musée d'Orsay (tel: 40.20.50.50). To April 28: "Dessins français du XVIIIe siècle dans les Collections Publiques Françaises." More than 160 18th-century drawings, including works by Vouet, Le Brun, Pousin and Puget.

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Day

Thousands Seized in New Delhi Protest

By Molly Moore and John Ward Anderson

Washington Post Service
NEW DELHI — Riot police arrested thousands of Hindu demonstrators and unleashed tear gas and rubber bullets on anti-government protesters Thursday in one of the toughest security crackdowns imposed on this city in recent years.

Police virtually shut down the capital, blocking roads leading into the city and turning sports stadiums into giant holding compounds for thousands of arrested protesters. They ringed major government buildings with razor-wire fences in an effort to stop a massive rally by Hindu extremists calling for new elections to replace the current government.

Several thousand demonstrators managed to elude the police and paramilitary blockades, however, and gathered at rallying points throughout the city, where police lobbed tear gas canisters, fired rubber bullets and water cannons and charged protesters with long bamboo sticks.

The massive show of force — with an estimated 75,000 police and paramilitary officers in the city — was ordered as result of religious tensions that have led to 2,000 deaths and threatened India's current administration in the two and a half months since Hindu fanatics destroyed a historic Muslim mosque in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya.



Riot police in New Delhi closing in on a demonstrator while breaking up an opposition Hindu rally.

Thursdays planned rally by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, whose supporters led the December attack on the mosque, had been banned by the government. The police arrested senior BJP leaders as they attempted to rally followers in defiance of the ban.

By midday, with two sports stadiums and the Delhi central jail filled beyond capacity with protesters and Hindu party sympathizers, the police stopped arresting demonstrators, according to S.N. Shrivastava, commander of the police forces assigned to control a West Delhi party stronghold, where an estimated 7,000 people streamed into the streets and alleyways.

Many New Delhi streets, which on most business days are bumper-to-bumper with cars, motorcycles and cow carts, were deserted. Many schools and shops were closed for the day, while residents concerned about possible outbreaks of violence stayed indoors. Most schools were closed because the police commandeered more than 650 school buses to transport arrested protesters.

Police manned road blocks throughout the central area of the city, stopping and searching cars and recruiting motorists, pedestrians and cyclists to show identification cards.

The situation at police checkpoints was so chaotic that 18 members of Parliament — none of them members of the Hindu party — were detained for five hours by the police. The lawmakers were trying to return to the Parliament building after breakfast with the president at his residence.

Party leaders and supporters accused the government police forces of harassing suspected sympathizers, pulling people off trains and buses, ransacking their homes and searching them in the streets.

B.B. Sharma, a party activist, said he had not been able to sleep at his home for five days because policemen have come every night to arrest him.

"Why? I am a BJP worker, that's why," he said. "Do you think I live in a democratic country?"

CHILD: A Death From a Random Shell, or Was It a Ramadan Message?

(Continued from page 1)
landed in the middle of dozens of pensioners, housewives and children who were lining up for bread. At least 18 of them died.

Last month, Sarajevo had a water-line massacre. It was much the same: pensioners, housewives and children lining up to get water. Eight of them were killed in the explosion. Death is the potential cost of a loaf of bread or gallon of water.

Intervention. It is the same for the shelled buildings: The Muslims, Serbs say, want to destroy their offices and homes and blame it on the Serbs.

United Nations commanders in Bosnia have said that both sides, on occasion, have shelled themselves in order, one said, "to create a particular image."

AIRDROP: Clinton Gives Go-Ahead to Parachuting Supplies to Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)
regard to ethnic or religious affiliation.

The president acknowledged that the overland convoys, which have been interrupted by disputes between the warring factions, remain the best way to deliver aid, but said the airdrops were "a temporary measure, designed to address the immediate needs of isolated areas that cannot be reached at this time by ground."

U.S. officials said they still hoped that some American allies would join in, after they see that the airdrop operation can be mounted effectively. Britain and France, which have been delivering supplies by land, have shown no interest in the air alternative.

Two other NATO powers, Germany and Turkey, were ruled out because of Germany's historical links with Croatia and Turkey's would have aroused suspicion among the Serbs that weapons, not food, were being dropped. U.S. officials said.

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HEADING TOWARD RETIREMENT? — President Fidel Castro, at a news conference in Santiago, Cuba, on Thursday, said that he hoped "it will not be necessary" for him to be president by 1998. He was speaking after the country's first popular elections for parliament since the Communist revolution in 1959. The elections featured balloting in which no candidate faced an opponent.

JAPAN: After Cold War, Bonn's Renewed Interest in Asia Stirs Suspicion

(Continued from page 1)
Kohl will urge Japan to step up aid to Russia and to invite President Boris N. Yeltsin to the summit meeting of the Group of Seven industrialized nations in Tokyo in July.

Mr. Kohl will argue that Germany can no longer afford to foot such a large bill and that it is in Tokyo's interest to do more to promote stability and nuclear safety in a nation that is one of Japan's closest neighbors.

Japan has heard similar appeals before, but it may tell the Germans that while it is they who attacked Russia, Japan was attacked by Russia.

The case is completely reversed in our relationship with Russia," Mr. Kohl said.

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Yoshiro Mori, Mr. Kohl will also express concern over Russia's 5.7 billion trade deficit with Tokyo in 1992 and call on Japan to open its markets further. He also will urge Japan to invest more in Eastern Germany. Japan's acquisition of state assets there has totaled less than that of other Asian nations such as South Korea, Taiwan and Indonesia.

As for Mr. Yeltsin, Tokyo is considered likely to invite the Russian leader to the summit meeting, although it has not yet made a formal decision.

In a meeting with Trade Minister

Chambers of Commerce, whose Tokyo office Mr. Strub heads.

Because of high overhead, Germany can survive only with innovative and high value-added products, said Theodor Schonebeck, an economist at Deutsche Bank Research. But unlike the Japanese, he said, "we Germans have not been gaining any market share in technologically innovative products."

GERMANY: Feelings Toward Japan Mingle Mystery, Fear and Envy

(Continued from page 1)
Far East, with emphasis on the 'far.' But the current slump in the German economy provides an urgent incentive to learn from Japan's past business success.

The Japanese, in the past, have always mastered their crises better than the Germans," Mr. Meckel said.

Japanese companies, for example, lose little time in abandoning uncompetitive industries and closing unprofitable plants. By contrast, when AEG, an electrical engineering unit of Daimler-Benz, tried to get out of making typewriters, the exit took more than a year and cost 1 billion Deutsche marks.

Moreover, Japan's dominance in key world markets has been spreading beyond its traditional stronghold of automobiles and electronics to include banking and capital goods such as machine tools and fine optical equipment, which count among Germany's strongest business sectors. German exports to Japan, in comparison, tend to be relatively low-tech, the chamber of commerce said.

Asked about U.S.-British relations in general, he said that the support of members of his Conservative Party for President George Bush during the election "absolutely didn't sour the relationship at all."

He offered no opening for a special U.S. envoy but said fact-finding missions "are of course always welcome."

Speaking at a press conference

with Mr. Clinton on Wednesday, Mr. Major made clear that he would not object if Mr. Clinton, responding to political pressures, sent a fact-finding mission to Northern Ireland.

Major Is Open to U.S. Ulster Fact-Finder

WASHINGTON — Prime Minister John Major resisted pressure for U.S. intervention in Northern Ireland on Thursday but left open the possibility of a fact-finding mission proposed by President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Major said in a television interview that Northern Ireland was "a totally different place than 10 years ago" and had made great strides toward resolving sectarian strife.

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Speaking at a press conference

SUMMIT: Clinton-Yeltsin Meeting Is Set for April 4

(Continued from page 1)
Geneva, Vienna, Helsinki and Reykjavik.

Mr. Christopher mined no words in emphasizing that the United States intends to do all it can to help shore up Mr. Yeltsin, whose attempts to move Russia to free-market economics and political pluralism have come under increasingly heavy fire from old-line Communist conservatives and many other Russians battered by inflation and financial upheaval.

U.S. officials said that a single day of talks probably would not permit Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin to do more than get acquainted and skim the surface of the various issues involving the two countries.

Nevertheless, the officials said, in addition to U.S. aid, the meeting almost certainly will touch on such questions as ratification of the START-2 treaty and other arms-control issues, Russia's desire to reschedule payment of its vast foreign debt and such regional matters as U.S.-Russian cooperation in ending the Balkan war.

On Thursday before the parliamentary ballot in Rome, Giorgio La Malfa, head of the small Republican Party, resigned after being formally notified that he was being investigated for suspected abuse of laws concerning the financing of political parties.

Mr. La Malfa, 52, an economist, was the second party leader to quit this month, following the Socialist leader, Bettino Craxi. But even though Mr. La Malfa's party accounted for only about 5 percent of the national vote, his resignation was all the more shocking because he had long depicted himself as a bastion of respectability.

"I do not want to be part of this," he had declared in April 1991 when he led his party into opposition after many years as a junior coalition partner in successive governments. "I want nothing to do with people who are trying to destroy the image, wealth and morality of Italy."

Party supporters said Mr. La Malfa had been accused of failing to notify the authorities of a \$33,000 donation for the printing of posters for the April 1992 general elections, not of taking bribes.

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SCANDAL: Italy's Amato Survives a Vote, Corruption Inquiry Widens

(Continued from page 1)
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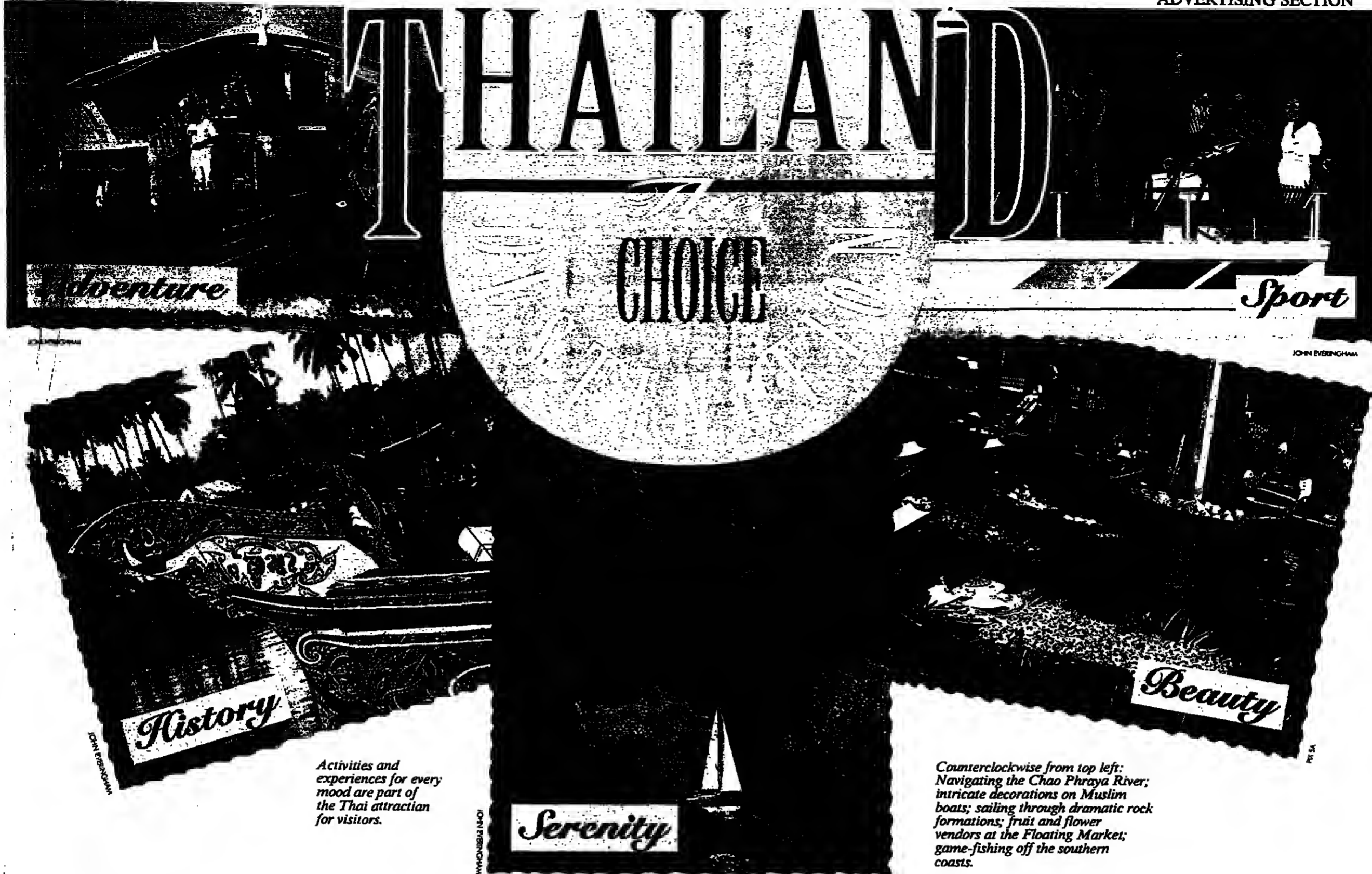
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Activities and experiences for every mood are part of the Thai attraction for visitors.

Counterclockwise from top left: Navigating the Chao Phraya River; intricate decorations on Muslim boats; sailing through dramatic rock formations; fruit and flower vendors at the Floating Market; game-fishing off the southern coasts.

Enticements For All Tastes in Traveling

Bangkok, Thailand's gateway for most tourists, has the dynamic excitement of a great metropolis with some of the world's best luxury hotels, vast air-conditioned shopping centers, superb restaurants, modern business convention facilities and a lively nightlife.

At the same time, the city has a wealth of memorable historical and cultural attractions, among them the dazzling Grand Palace, the National Museum, many of the leading Buddhist temples and, for anyone willing to take the time to seek them out, nostalgic reminders of its romantic past as the "Venice of the East."

Those with a taste for history and archaeology can construct a trip that includes prehistoric sites going back 5,000 years, the greatest Khmer temple complexes outside of Cambodia itself and the impressive remains of numerous old Thai cities. Sukhothai, the first capital, which saw a remarkable flowering of Thai art and architecture, has been painstakingly restored as a huge historical park. Ayutthaya, seat of the kingdom for more than four centuries, lies just a few hours up the Chao Phraya River from Bangkok, easily accessible by boat or car.

For culture buffs, there are performances of Thai classical dance in bejeweled costumes, plus a collection of annual events so frequent they can be made to coincide with a visit almost any month during the year. Traditional nationwide festivals range from the boisterous celebration of the old Thai New Year in April to the beautiful Loy Krathong in November, when thousands of little lighted boats flicker along the country's rivers and canals in honor of the water spirits.

More localized events include the Pattaya Beach Festival (April), the Royal Ploughing Ceremony in Bangkok (May), the Phuket Vegetarian Festival (October), the Surin Elephant Roundup (November) and the Phuket King's Cup Yachting Regatta (December). Adventurers can go on treks into the northern mountains around Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, where colorful tribal groups live in remote villages, preserving traditions that have remained unchanged for centuries. Trekking agencies in both cities offer 10 to 12 standard tours to meet an assortment of budgets and desires. In addition, there are rafting trips down scenic rivers and elephant

rides through the forests of the region. Also ideal for nature lovers is the network of more than 60 national parks and 32 wildlife sanctuaries, extending from the northernmost provinces to the border of Malaysia in the far south, covering both forests and offshore islands. All these have a wealth of birdlife, and some provide glimpses of such rare protected species as elephants, gibbons, leopards and mouse deer. Most parks can be visited for a day trip from nearby provincial capitals.

Sports enthusiasts also have a wide choice. Since 1924, when the first public course was opened at the seaside resort of Hua Hin, golf has been a popular leisure activity among Thais. Now there are some 50 world-class courses, several designed by such international champions as Gary Player, Robert McFarland and Robert Trent Jones. The majority are located in or around Bangkok; others can be found in provincial destinations like Pattaya, Phuket and Chiang Mai.

Until a few decades ago, Pattaya was an obscure village on the east coast of the Gulf of Thailand. Its popularity began in the late 1960s, when improved roads made it much more accessible from Bangkok than the older Hua Hin. Today, encompassing not only the original beach but others stretching for several miles, it has the most extensive facilities of any resort in Southeast Asia, with hotel accommodations, theme parks and a nightlife rivaling that of the capital. Its islands offer the best water for scuba diving; land sports range from golf to horseback riding.

Traditional Thai spectator sports include Thai-style boxing, in which the feet are used with a grace at once balletic and lethal; longboat races, held annually on rivers in many provinces; *taekro*, involving a ball made of woven rattan and played by men and boys all over the country; and kite fighting, a sort of aerial battle of the sexes with huge "males" endeavoring to snare dainty, darting "females" high in the sky.

Thailand can also serve as the focus for other specialized interests. Anyone who wants to study Buddhist meditation can sign up for special classes at several temples in Bangkok or go for more extended stays at isolated ones in the countryside.

William Warren



Sea-canoeing is one of the newest activities.

Another, Older Bangkok Lies Behind the Facade

Bangkok's sleek modern buildings and thronged thoroughfares mask another city: one that reveals unexpected vignettes of another, older time.

From the vantage point of a private car or air-conditioned tour bus, a certain stretch of Bangkok's Petchburi Road offers little in the way of surprise. It is lined with starkly utilitarian shops, interrupted here and there with more modern shopping centers and office buildings.

Walking along the same street, however, an observant pedestrian notices a narrow alleyway between two of the buildings and if, impelled by curiosity, he turns down it, an entirely different world is revealed. Here he discovers a jingly garden shaded by venerable tamarind trees, a slightly dilapidated but imposing old Victorian-style palace and, beyond, one of Bangkok's surviving canals, flowing through scenery that looks much as it was described by visitors 70 years ago.

The experience suggests two things: there is another Bangkok behind the facade produced by the two decades of nonstop construction, and finding it requires a willingness to get out and explore.

Perhaps the best place to start is the Chao Phraya River. When Bangkok was established as the capital in 1782, and for a good century and a half afterward, this was the principal means of communi-

cation — "the city's main highway," as Somerset Maugham called it in the late 1920s. Nearly all the main historic landmarks overlook the river or lie just behind a screen of shops and warehouses, meaning that they can be easily visited by water.

Private boats can be hired by the day, and inexpensive public ferries ply the river from dawn to nightfall. At various conveniently located public landings, visitors can see the spectacular compound containing the Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, the National Museum, a dozen or so major Buddhist temples and the colorful wholesale market of Pakklong Talad.

An even more alluring ambience can be found on the meandering canals of Thonburi, once a separate city across the Chao Phraya. Open houses line the waterways like a series of little theaters displaying everyday Thai life.

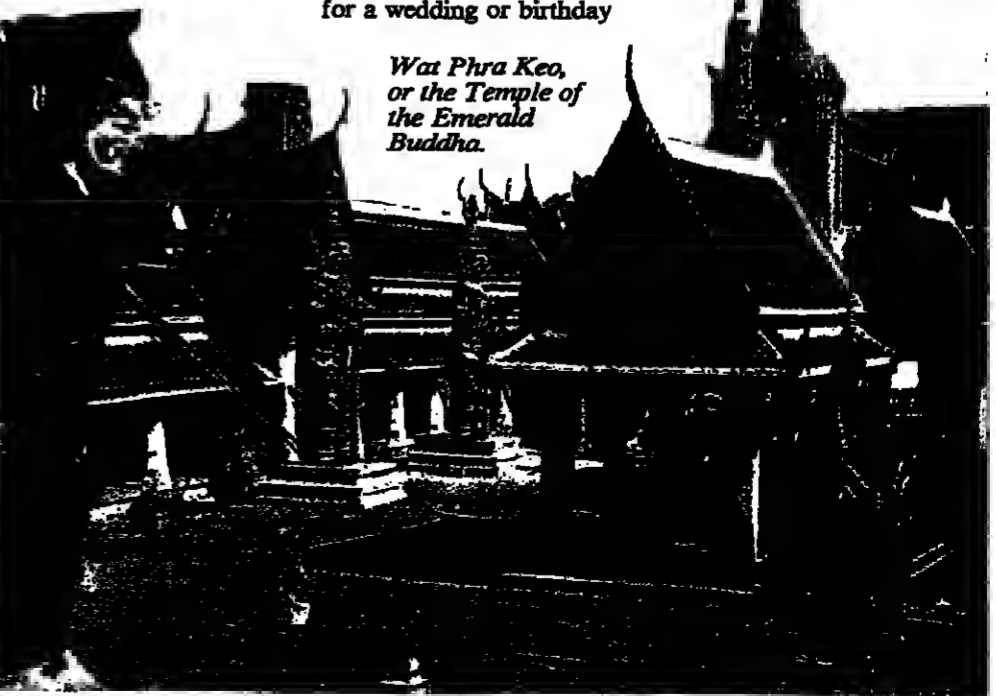
On land, too, it is possible to find a Bangkok as excitingly different as anyone could wish. Shops in the clamorous, labyrinthine alleyways of Chinatown, for example, offer all sorts of odd things, from edible birds' nests to hand-carved coffins, from esoteric cooking equipment to imaginative favors for a wedding or birthday

party, sold by the gross. Of course, Bangkok's many shopping centers offer everything from brand-name perfumes to precious antiques. The biggest of these is the Central Plaza in the northern part of the capital, a popular marketplace full of upscale boutiques and stores selling the latest items at very reasonable prices.

The city's public markets are another colorful sight. At Pranam, an enormous covered area is devoted entirely to ready-to-wear clothing. At Bangrak market on New Road, the specialty is flowers, either by the bunch or transformed into stunning traditional arrangements.

The greatest of them all is the Weekend Market, held Saturday and Sunday at Chatuchak Park across from the Central Plaza hotel and shopping complex, which is the most spacious in Southeast Asia and has one of Thailand's largest and best-equipped convention and exhibition halls. Here, just about everything that Thailand grows or makes is on sale, and the always large crowds represent a cross-section of Thai life.

W.W.



Wat Phra Keo, or the Temple of the Emerald Buddha.

A Travel Package That's Made to Order

The Royal Orchid Holidays program offered by Thai Airways International (THAI) includes a range of more than 30 different packages, plus optional trips covering the entire country.

THAI has designed Royal Orchid Holidays to give customers all the advantages of prepackaged travel without the drawbacks of traveling in a group.

Royal Orchid Holidays, a program involving more than 70 destinations in 38 countries around the world, gives travelers the freedom of choice associated with individual travel plans; at the same time, it is able to offer the cost savings usually found only

in group package tours. "We are accepted as a quality worldwide package program offering upmarket clients a very attractive price, even if it isn't the cheapest service," says Simisa Shuntikul, director of Royal Orchid Holidays.

The original concept dates back to the 1960s, when THAI concluded that many of Asia's most interesting and unusual attractions were not being marketed effectively out-

side the region. What was needed, it was felt, was a reliable system whereby travelers could make all arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing and so on, just as it suited them, in all the stops on their itinerary.

Drawing on its vast regional and international organization, THAI decided to coordinate a complete travel program.

Continued on Page II

This advertising section was produced in its entirety by the advertising division of the International Herald Tribune's advertising department. John Hoak is the author of "The Mekong: A River and Its People." Colin Powell is a Canadian writer and editor living in Bangkok. William Warren is a longtime resident of Thailand and the author of "Thai Style" and "Thailand the Beautiful Cookbook."

Adventure-Travel Options: Hills, Sea and Jungle

Adventure tourism is a growth industry in Thailand. An increasing number of visitors has both the means to travel for action sports and a "green" orientation, leading them to seek natural, unspoiled surroundings in which to enjoy their favorite activities.

Over half of Thailand's foreign visitors fall into the 25-45 age group. Marketing surveys conducted in both the United States and Asia show that these people are college-educated, affluent and concerned with "quality of life."

The Andaman Sea side of Thailand's southern peninsula provides ideal conditions for the long December-May high season, with consistently sunny, dry weather and calm seas. Sailors and windsurfers can rely on good winds, and with water temperatures of 27-30 degrees centigrade (80.5-86 Fahrenheit), divers do not need wetsuits. The seas are clean and unobscured by boat traffic. To a lesser extent, much of the Gulf of Thailand offers similar conditions during low season in the Andaman Sea.

Thailand's beaches offer a wide range of accommodation, from primitive huts to five-star resort hotels. A wealth of entertainment and other recreational facilities is available in centers such as Phuket and Pattaya. At the same time, with the exception of a few beaches out of dozens, the region has yet to be overdeveloped, and the adventure tourist can find plenty of facilities and conditions for enjoying action sports.

Scuba diving is perhaps the most popular of local adventure sports. The main centers for scuba instruction, as well as for equipment sales, rentals and service, are Phuket, in the Andaman Sea, and Pattaya, Koh Samui and Chumphon in the Gulf. Beginners can sign up for

Camping in the hill country at Mae Hong Son (right); diving in the company of reef fish at Hin Muang (below).



Accommodations range from luxurious to basic at Pattaya.

Alluring Destinations Both Well-Known and New

Whereas 20 years ago Bangkok was almost Thailand's sole attraction, with Chiang Mai a distant rival, one area of the country after another has since opened up to visitors. This pattern continues, with ever-more-remote frontiers presenting themselves to a new class of traveler.

Ongoing improvements in transportation services are putting virtually the whole of Thailand within comfortable range of the holidaymaker. Seaside resort areas such as Pattaya, Phuket and Koh Samui have grown to be among Thailand's prime attractions. These three centers began as destinations known only to a privileged few, tropical seaside Shangri-las advertised mainly by word of mouth. From low-budget destinations with minimal facilities, each in turn rapidly developed into a thriving tourist center.

For those who like their beaches less built-up and are willing to trade the lack of a full range of facilities for relative peace and unspoiled nature, Krabi and Koh Chang are the two new challengers for primacy among Thai beach resorts.

Krabi Province, on the shores of the Andaman Sea some 800 kilometers (500 miles) south of Bangkok, has what many consider to be the country's best beaches. Bungalows nestle at the foot of striking limestone cliffs fringed with jungle, while five-star resorts have been designed to blend in as much as possible with both the cultural and natural environment.

An even more recent discovery for international tourism is Koh Chang Marine National Park, a group of almost 50 islands lying off the coast of Trat Province, four hours by road southeast of Bangkok and right next to the border with Cambodia.

Koh Chang itself is, after Phuket, Thailand's second-largest island. It is sparsely populated, with an interior that is still largely rain forest. Development has so far been slow, but the area is poised to boom as the country's next resort frontier.

New developments are also apparent elsewhere in the country. Chiang Mai, the country's second city, has long been established as the main tourist destination in Thailand's north. Chiang Rai, however, is now emerging from Chiang Mai's shadow as an attraction in its own right. A new airport and several deluxe hotels have already established the town as an attractive base for exploring the far north. Doi Tung and Doi Mae Salong, two mountains with hill-tribe villages hidden away

who want to crew themselves can hire a "bareboat" charter, which provides a sailboat plus a skipper. Those with sufficient experience can simply take the boat and look after themselves. Charter operators are based on Pattaya/Jomtien Beach in the Gulf or Phuket in the Andaman.

Sea canoeing in Phang Nga Bay, just northeast of

Phuket, is the newest adventure for visitors. One Phuket-based operator is taking small groups out to explore the *hongs*, collapsed cave systems inside the jungle-fringed and sheer-cliffed limestone islands of the bay. These hidden worlds of tropical flora and fauna open to the sky are accessible, in many cases, only through sea caves at low tide.

ประเทศไทย THAILAND



UNWIND in the SPORTS PLAYGROUND of ASIA: PATTAYA.

Two hours drive southeast of Bangkok, Pattaya is Asia's sporting jewel. A cosmopolitan beach resort that's a real family treasure trove.

Here you'll find every watersport known to man, plus horse riding, go-cart racing, tennis, archery, you name it. For golfers, there are 7 international courses designed by stars like Faldo and Nicklaus. And for children, waterparks, a modal village and an open zoo ensure there's never a dull moment.

Pattaya has accommodation for every budget, with elegant resort hotels to charming guesthouses. And, it's the gateway to the east coast where gem mines, islands and colourful marina national parks wait to be explored.

This year, holiday in Pattaya, for an experience you'll treasure forever.



Please send me a free Thailand Treasure Pack.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Mail to: Tourism Authority of Thailand, 372 Bamrung Muang Road, Bangkok 10100, Thailand.

A Travel Package That's Made to Order

Continued from Page 1

Working on the customer's behalf, the airline developed a close partnership with hotels, ground handling operators and others involved in the travel business in each of its destinations.

The airline does not operate the tours itself. Explains Ms. Sunisa: "We ensure quality by carefully selecting our hotels and appointing only the most outstanding ground operators. We produce a lot of volume for hotels and agents. Therefore, we are able to get a better price, which, as we are an airline and not a tour operator, we can pass on to the customer without any mark-up."

The main feature of Royal Orchid Holidays, however, is its flexibility. Using a combination of brief stopovers, longer holidays and optional add-

on elements, travelers can create a travel plan precisely suited to their needs, from a few days to a month or more. They can fly scheduled flights whenever they like, and there is a choice of hotels to fit budgets from economy to deluxe.

An additional advantage, especially for business travelers, who often have to plan at short notice, is the convenience of quick reservations. Holidays can be arranged either through accredited travel agents or through any THAI office. "It's as easy as booking an airline ticket," says Ms. Sunisa. "With our computerized and high-tech international communications, we can promise a free sales bank and instant confirmation."

Not surprisingly, the Royal Orchid Holidays concept has proved a success. When the program was first launched in 1969, there were just 12 tour plans attracting only a few hundred customers. In the 1991-92 season, 125,000 visitors traveled on 132 basic tour plans with 100 options and extensions covering Thailand, the rest of Asia, Australasia and major cities throughout Europe.

Today, there are several different types of Royal Orchid Holiday. They vary from brief stopovers in all the key destinations served by THAI to comprehensive tour plans including whole regions. They can also cater to special interests, with itineraries designed to give an in-depth travel experience.

THAI is also constantly introducing refinements to enhance the scope of this scheme and to maximize efficiency. New in 1993, for example, is a revised stopover program providing accommodation only

and designed for the frequent traveler.

Thailand, unsurprisingly, is the most popular destination, with tours taking in all the top spots, plus a range of activities. Visitors can enjoy a two-night mini-break in Bangkok for as little as \$75, or can travel farther afield for a three-day/two-night trek in the north for \$149.

Beyond Thailand, Royal Orchid Holidays' list of travel options includes river rafting in Nepal, some of the world's best beaches and mountain ranges from Mount Fuji to the Pyrenees.

There is also the chance to explore new and still largely unvisited destinations like Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. From Bangkok to Hong Kong, Paris and Rome, Royal Orchid Holidays provides the best in shopping and dining opportunities.

John Hoskin



Sailing at Pattaya, on the Gulf of Thailand.

Tourism Authority of Thailand

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Gateway to the Sights of Southeast Asia

The countries bordering Thailand are now accessible from Bangkok, and each offers the visitor both remarkable scenery and exotic cultural attractions.

Last October, after an interval of nearly two decades, Thai International Airways reinaugurated flights to Phnom Penh. With the Cambodian capital back on the aviation map, Thailand becomes the full gateway to its Southeast Asian neighbors: Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia to the east, Burma to the west and Yunnan Province of China to the north. While hotels and other tourist infrastructure in these countries do not match those available in Thailand, this is compensated for by the sense of adventure and privileged access afforded in exploring sights and scenes long hidden from the ordinary traveler.

Cambodia, among Thailand's closest neighbors, is in many ways the most appealing, despite the scars left by two decades of civil strife. Phnom Penh, for instance, retains much of its colonial charm.

As a tourist attraction, however, the capital is overshadowed by the country's biggest draw, Angkor. Once capital of the mighty Khmer empire, Angkor is one of the true wonders of Asia. Awesome in its size, beauty and stark isolation, this site has been described as mankind's greatest expression of religious faith.

century temple complex, absorbs visitors with its labyrinth of pavilions, halls and chapels. Ta Phrom's ruins lie half-swallowed by jungle growth, deliberately left this way by restorers so that the viewer can get some idea of how the other ancient Khmer remains in this area first appeared to their modern discoverers.

Laos, to the north of Cambodia, is still pre-package-tour Asia. The country's two main cities are Vientiane, the capital, and the old royal city of Luang Prabang. Tucked away amid the folds of a high, jungled mountain range, Luang Prabang has a dreamlike quality about it. Founded in the 14th century, this tiny city sits on a promontory formed by the Mekong and Nam Khan rivers. In the center of town, the Phousi, a rocky pagoda-topped outcrop, overlooks traditional temple roofs.

Apart from a half-dozen Buddhist temples, architecturally the stuff of Oriental fairy tales, sight-seeing includes the former royal palace, now a museum. It is also possible to take a boat trip up the Mekong to Pak Ou Cave, an image-packed Buddhist shrine that overlooks the river.

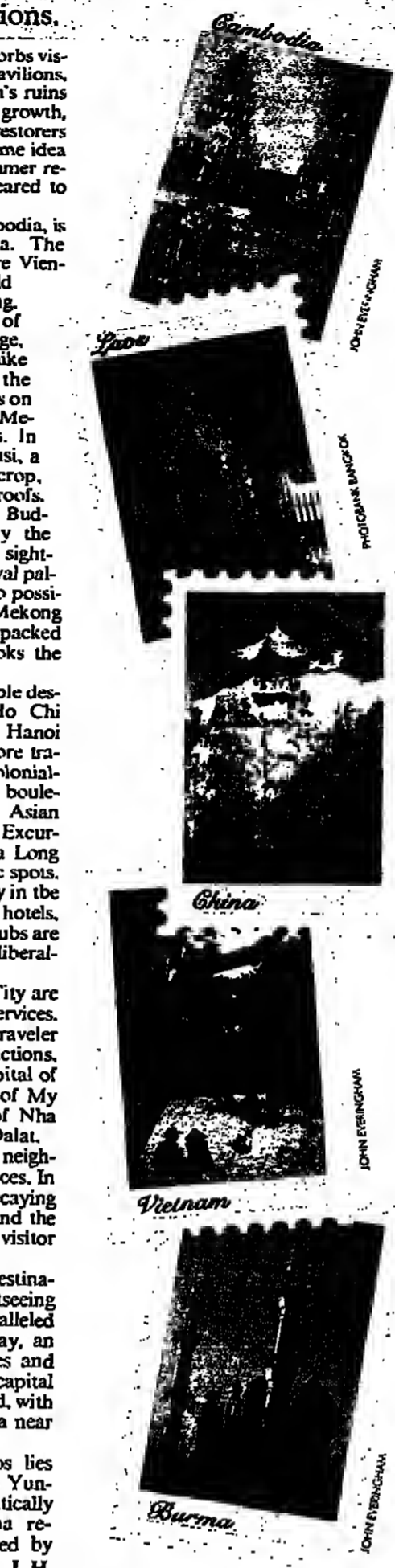
In Vietnam, the two principle destinations are Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon. Hanoi is the smaller, quieter and more traditional of the two, with colonial-period architecture, tree-lined boulevards and quintessentially Asian scenes of pagodas and lakes. Excursions from Hanoi include Ha Long Bay, one of Asia's most scenic spots. Ho Chi Minh City is currently in the process of rejuvenation. New hotels, restaurants, shops and nightclubs are opening following economic liberalization.

Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City are linked by air, road and rail services. The overland route takes the traveler by several noteworthy attractions, including the old imperial capital of Hue, the ancient Cham site of My Son, the beautiful beaches of Nha Trang and the hill resort of Dalat.

Burma, Thailand's western neighbor, offers some rare experiences. In the capital, Rangoon, the decaying British colonial architecture and the whole pace of life take the visitor back to the 19th century.

Burma's three major tour destinations are Yangon, where sightseeing highlights include the unparalleled Shwedagon Pagoda; Mandalay, an old royal capital with temples and pagodas; and Pagan, ancient capital of the first Burmese empire and, with its hundreds of temple ruins, a near rival to Angkor.

North of Burma and Laos lies Kunming, capital of China's Yunnan Province, and the dramatically mountainous Xishuanghanna region, rich in lakes and carved by mighty river systems.



Thailand is a jumping-off point for a spectrum of cultures.



Elephant-riding is a traditional means of transport.

Getting Around by Plane, Boat and Train

From the metropolis to the ancient ruins of bygone capitals, from beach resorts to hill country, Thailand almost always offers a safe, efficient and inexpensive means of transportation. Here are some of the possibilities.

Thailand, a country about the size of France, has the advantage of offering a major business, shopping and cultural center such as Bangkok while also providing access to remote islands and mountain valleys. The options for transport suit any itinerary.

Fastest and most convenient, of course, is air travel. Since 1950, Bangkok has been an important crossroads for international air traffic. Today, Thai Airways International, in addition to its own international routes, also operates an extensive domestic network covering 20 destinations. Most points have direct service from Bangkok; on trunk routes, such as those to Chiang Mai or Phuket, there are several

flights every day. In addition, private domestic carrier Bangkok Airways operates direct flights from Bangkok to Koh Samui, Hua Hin and U-Tapao (for Pattaya). It also flies to Phuket, Trang and Mae Hong Son, with other routes currently in the planning stage.

Prior to an ambitious highway program undertaken in the late 1930s, travel within Thailand was almost entirely by waterway or rail. A trip from Bangkok to Chiang Mai could take a week. Since that time, this country has developed an extensive road system, which is already very good and is getting better, with ongoing expansion of existing routes from Bangkok to the provinces. Car rental,

with or without driver, is readily available.

Traditionally, Thailand has been a land of river and sea transport, with settlement patterns usually following coastlines and inland waterways. Plenty of cruises and excursions are to be had out of Phuket or Samui, while river trips from Bangkok to the old capital at Ayutthaya are recommended. Otherwise, scheduled passenger boat service is limited to a few local ferry services, such as those between Surat Thani and Koh Samui or Phuket and Koh Phi Phi, and the new JetCat catamaran operation between Phuket and the Malaysian island of Langkawi.

Thailand's first railway — a line that ran from Bangkok to Paknam, at

the mouth of the Chao Phraya River — was opened in 1891. Today, major rail links join Bangkok to the south (continuing on through Malaysia to Singapore), the northeast and the northern capital of Chiang Mai. Rolling stock is generally good, and there are both first-class and second-class sleepers, as well as both air-conditioned and fan-cooled carriages.

By late September of this year, Thailand should have what is being touted as the ultimate in train travel. The Eastern and Oriental Express, sister to the famous Venice-Simpson Orient Express, is scheduled to begin deluxe service between Singapore and Bangkok.

C.P.



Most famous of the associated architectural marvels is the 12th-century Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious building, a huge and intricate rectangular mass rising to a central core of five distinctive towers. Its grandeur is complemented by its wealth of ornamentation. Finely executed bas-relief scenes from epic legends stretch the length of the long gallery walls, while richly carved stonework embellishes the maze of chambers and courtyards.

Beyond Angkor Wat lie more astonishing sights still. The Bayon, an imposing stone pile of 54 towers, each with enigmatic stone faces gazing to the four points of the compass, is perhaps the most notable. Fresh Khan, a well-preserved late 12th-

True Folk Art Persists in Functional Crafts

Increasingly sought-after by visitors to Thailand are its functional crafts — items used in everyday life that often rise to the level of genuine folk art through beauty of form and skilled workmanship.

Looking back after he had left Thailand in the 1930s, an English physician named Malcolm Smith observed: "Every town in the country [in the past] had its own industries, its potters, its metal workers, its carpenters and boat builders, its weavers and basket-makers. Everything required by the people for their daily needs was made 'at home.'"

To Dr. Smith, whose practice was confined to Bangkok, it seemed that most of these homely crafts had vanished, swept away by the vogue for cheap, mass-produced Western products. At the village level, however, this never really happened.

Basket weaving, for instance, remains an important cottage industry

throughout the country. There are baskets for just about every conceivable need that might arise in rural life: measuring and winnowing rice, carrying lunch to the fields, rearing silkworms, storing clothes and other valuables or going to market.

On the principle that form follows function, each basket is designed to serve a specific purpose. But to an outside observer, it is evident that something else has been achieved as well. Not just skill but artistry has gone into the complex patterns and shapes.

Many of the more attractive functional crafts are made for the kitchen. There are bandsomely fashioned ladies of wood or coconut shell, earthen-

ware cooking pots, elegant strainers of wire mesh or bamboo, charcoal braziers of numerous kinds and stone mortars essential for grinding Thai food ingredients. Less easy to find but cherished by collectors are wooden coconut scrapers in the form of various animals such as rabbits, cats and elephants.

Simple but handsome pottery is made throughout the country, each region having certain distinctive designs of its own. Among these are the fine, low-fired water jars of the north, lightly glazed with terra cotta. Traditionally, one of these is placed on a stand outside each temple and private home so that thirsty strangers can stop and refresh themselves.

Also ubiquitous are supple mats for sleeping or lounging on the floor.

Made by plaiting reeds, strips of palm leaf or some other easily available local plant, these are often decorated with colored geometric or floral patterns.

Handwoven cotton is the basic cloth of rural Thais, turned into colorful sarongs worn by both men and women (with different designs to distinguish them) as well as carrying bags and other everyday items.

Old examples of these crafts can be found in many antique shops in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, a response to their new desirability as "collectibles," while new ones in abundance are available in any market. Particularly good places to look while on a visit are Bangkok's great Weekend Market and Chiang Mai's Night Bazaar.

W.W.

Functional forms of art.

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THAILAND

Local Dishes To Discover

As countless cookbooks and restaurants attest, Thai cuisine is very definitely hot these days — in more than one sense. Its subtle gradations of spicy and sweet, salty and sour, reflect an assortment of culinary influences.

Thailand's cuisine, like its culture, is blended in ways that make it quite different from anything else in Asia and a revelation to Western palates.

What many foreign admirers of Thai food may not realize, however, is that the cooking varies from region to region, sometimes in small ways that only a true expert could appreciate, sometimes in dramatic ones. Traveling about the country can thus be a culinary experience as well as an opportunity to enjoy a wide range of scenic attractions.

In the mountainous far north, for instance, the food is as distinctive as the handicrafts for which the region is noted. Instead of the soft, boiled rice served with every meal in the central plains, northerners prefer a steamed, glutinous variety. This is traditionally eaten with the fingers, making small balls to dip into liquid dishes.

Curries of the north tend to be thinner, without the coconut milk popular in central and southern Thai cooking, and there are local versions of dishes like *nam phrik ong*, the basic dipping sauce that accompanies almost every Thai meal.

The cuisine of neighboring Burma manifests itself in such dishes as *khao soi*, a curry broth with egg noodles and chicken, pork or beef, and *gaeng hang lay*, a pork curry seasoned with ginger, turmeric and tamarind.

Northeastern Thailand borders on Laos and Cambodia and shares culinary traditions with both. As in Laos, glutinous rice is the staple, and typical Lao herbs such as dill often turn up as seasonings. The northeast has suffered



The style of cooking varies from north to south, sometimes in subtle ways, sometimes dramatically. Left: Fried chicken, green papaya salad and rice. Right: Prawn soup with lemon grass.

FROM THE CENTRAL PLAINS:

TOM YAM KUNG
(Prawn Soup with Lemon Grass)

- 20 medium-sized prawns
- 4-5 cups water
- 3 shallots, finely chopped
- 2 stalks lemon grass, lightly pounded and cut into 1-inch segments
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce
- 2 slices fresh or dried galanga root
- 20 small mushrooms
- 6 kaffir lime leaves
- 3 tablespoons lime juice
- 2-3 hot chilies
- coriander, spring onions

Wash the prawns and shell them without removing the tails. Pour the water into a saucepan, add the shallots, lemon grass, fish sauce and galanga root and boil for 5 minutes. Add the prawns and mushrooms and cook until the prawns turn pink. Add the kaffir lime leaves (ordinary lime leaves can be used if these are unavailable), lime juice and chilies. Cover and remove from the heat. Serve hot, with a garnish of chopped coriander leaves and minced spring onion.

FROM THE NORTHEAST:

SOM TAM
(Green Papaya Salad)

- 1 cup coarsely grated green papaya (or shredded cabbage)
- 2 tomatoes, sliced
- 1/2 cup grated carrot
- 1 teaspoon grated lime peel
- 1 tablespoon ground dried shrimp
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 2-3 chilies, chopped

Mix the first four ingredients together. Season with fish sauce, lime juice and sugar to taste. Sprinkle with ground dried shrimps and chopped chilies.



FROM THE NORTH:
NAM PHRIK ONG
(Northern Style Chili Dip)

- 1 cup minced pork
 - 1 cup diced tomato
 - 6 tablespoons minced shallots
 - 2 tablespoons minced garlic
 - 1 tablespoon sugar
 - 1 tablespoon fish sauce
 - 2 tablespoons shrimp paste
 - 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 5 dried chilies, seeded, soaked and chopped
- Pound or grind together the chopped dried chilies, salt, minced shallots and shrimp paste until smooth. Heat the oil in a frying pan. Fry the chili paste for one minute, then add the minced pork and diced tomato and simmer for 10 minutes. Season with fish sauce, sugar and lime juice. Serve as a dip with cucumber, cabbage slices and crispy pork cracklings.

frequent hardship in the form of prolonged droughts, and this, too, is reflected in cooking that makes use of a wide variety of exotic ingredients, among them fermented fish, frogs, silkworms and grasshoppers. It may also account for a tendency to use chili peppers with a greater abandon than almost anywhere else, thus giving a definite zip to the most mundane dishes.

Typical northeastern dishes like *som tam* (green papaya salad) and *laab* (spicy minced meat or chicken) are becoming increasingly popular with outsiders. Indeed, some connoisseurs now regard an ability to prepare such delicacies as the true test of a real Thai cook.

The long southern Thai peninsula stretches down to Malaysia, and seafood caught off its shores figures prominently in the regional cooking. Outside influences are revealed in such specialties as *gaeng mussaman*, an Indian-style curry with cardamom, cloves and cinnamon, and Indonesian *satay*, marinated bits of meat on skewers with a spicy peanut sauce.

The coconuts to be seen growing everywhere provide several ingredients: milk for thickening soups and curries, oil for frying and the grated meat as a condiment. Southern food rivals that of the northeast in chili-laced heat, and locals are partial to a bitter taste imparted by a native flat bean called *sa-taw*, which other Thais tend to find less than appealing.

The historic heart of Thailand lies in the central plains, a vast, flat, fertile basin of rice fields, fruit orchards and vegetable gardens. Bangkok dominates the region, culturally as well as economically, and here all the country's regional foods can be found in its crowded streets and markets.

The Chinese influence is particularly evident in numerous fast-food dishes based on rice noodles, often in a spicy broth. There is a unique central plains category referred to as "palace cooking," elaborate creations that supposedly originated in royal circles. These are distinguished by elegantly carved fruit and vegetable garnishes and a general refinement that suggests long hours of skilled preparation.

Here are some recipes from Thailand's various regions; the uncommon ingredients are available in Asian markets in most big cities.

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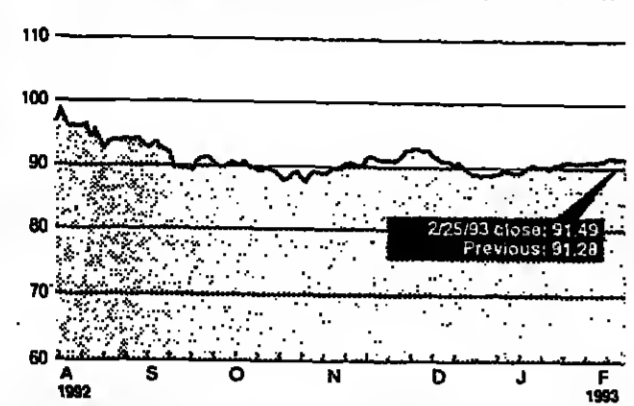
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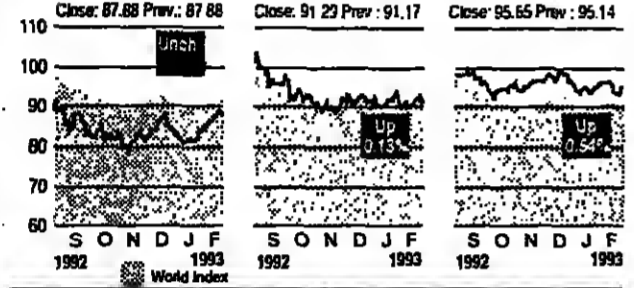
THE TRIB INDEX: 91.49

International Herald Tribune World Stock Index, composed of 230 internationally investible stocks from 20 countries, compiled by Bloomberg Business News, Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.



The index tracks U.S. dollar values of stocks in: Tokyo, New York, London, and Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. In the case of Tokyo, New York and London, the index is composed of the 20 top issues in terms of market capitalization. In the remaining 17 countries, the ten top stocks are tracked.

Region	Approx. weighting	Close	Prev.
Asia/Pacific	25%	87.88	87.88
Europe	40%	91.29	91.17
N. America	35%	95.55	95.14



Industrial Sector	This Week	Prev. Week	% Change	This Week	Prev. Week	% Change
Energy	96.22	95.65	+0.57	92.12	91.76	+0.36
Utilities	90.28	90.19	+0.10	93.02	92.80	+0.24
Finance	87.60	87.52	+0.08	85.38	85.23	+0.15
Services	103.60	103.23	+0.36	95.91	95.78	+0.03
Capital Goods						
Raw Materials						
Consumer Goods						
Miscellaneous						

For readers desiring more information about the International Herald Tribune World Stock Index, a booklet is available free of charge by writing to Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France.

WALL STREET WATCH

The House Has an Edge In Casino Stock Offering

By Floyd Norris
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — As public stock offerings go, Argosy Gaming Co. was a gamble for investors and a good bet for the house. Insiders, including Jimmy Connors, the tennis star, cleaned up on the public offering in the company, which runs a casino on a Mississippi riverboat, but its gambling monopoly in the St. Louis area is about to give way to competition.

Argosy went public a week ago at \$19 a share, and for a few minutes it looked as if the offering was a stunning success. It began trading at \$21.50, but sagged to a low of \$15 on Thursday, recovering to \$16.75 in afternoon trading on the over-the-counter market.

Argosy is not yet three years old, and only began spinning the roulette wheels in the fall of 1991. But its history shows how quickly the founders of a company can cash out when public investors are ready to buy.

The insiders invested \$201,000 for their stock, or roughly a penny a share. In the offering, they sold 8.3 percent of their shares for \$31.7 million. Add in the \$13 million of dividends they have received, and their investment looks pretty good.

The insiders had not originally expected to do that well from the offering. But when underwriters led by Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette concluded that they could sell 6 million shares, a million more than originally planned, the company decided that all the extra proceeds would go to insiders, rather than to provide additional capital.

It did take more than \$201,000 to get Argosy going, and a couple of shareholders provided loans. The loans not only bore interest but, in one case, an additional and truly extraordinary "accommodation fee."

That fee, for providing a \$5 million loan, was \$8.5 million. Of course, the company could not afford to pay such a fee immediately, so it was to be paid over time. But it has now been paid in full with part of the proceeds from the public offering.

Argosy owns one casino riverboat, which is docked in Alton, Illinois, and has garnered enough money to build a second one, which is to begin service later this year. Add in three barges and a few other

See ARGOSY, Page 13

EC Will Tax Steel From East as Part Of a Crisis Plan

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — European Community industry ministers agreed Thursday on a crisis plan to make deep cuts in steel production and to impose special tariffs on imports of cheap steel from Eastern Europe, diplomats said.

The decision comes amid a worldwide recession in the steel industry that has brought widespread layoffs, American sanctions against European and Asian steelmakers and sharp divisions between Western and Eastern Europe.

The Community also grappled with another contentious trade issue Thursday, agreeing to set minimum prices for imports of five types of fish from Russia, Iceland, Norway and Poland. The decision

Germany sent increasingly strong signals this week that it was fed up with France's "Fortress Europe" rhetoric. Page 13.

to impose a floor price, which will remain in effect for four months, came after EC fishermen had protested that surges of cheap imports were forcing them to slash prices.

The industry ministers gave broad backing to an EC Commission plan to help cushion the impact of job cuts and plant closings in the steel industry, leaving it to the industry itself to decide where the ax should fall to aid the Community of chronic overcapacity.

"Things went well," said the French industry minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn. "The Commission's approach is correct."

An expert's report for the Commission estimated that 50,000 jobs could be lost in the steel sector as it sheds overcapacity totaling 30 million metric tons of crude steel and up to 26 million tons of hot-rolled products. Actual production of crude steel last year was 132 million tons.

The meeting agreed that the restructuring should be completed by 1994 but with the possibility of an extension to 1995 in special circumstances, the French minister said.

The commission has proposed that the EC provide 240 million European currency units (\$290 million) to finance plant closures, retraining and social costs, to be matched by EC national governments. But first it has set an end-September deadline for the industry to come up with firm closure plans on a sufficient scale.

Diplomats said the thorniest issue of the day Thursday was how to handle low-priced imports from Eastern Europe, which grew by 15 percent last year. The steel exports are a vital source of hard currency for struggling ex-Communist states, where wages are far lower than in the West, but seen by many Community steelworkers as a threat to their jobs.

"You cannot sacrifice a job in Lorraine to protect one in Bohemia," Mr. Strauss-Kahn said.

The Commission had proposed negotiating three-year tariff quotas to limit imports, while Britain pressed for a two-year limit.

(Reuters, AFP, AP)

U.S. Study Maintains Drug Firms Overcharge

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — Drug manufacturers are making substantial profits despite the high costs of research and development, a report to the U.S. Congress said Thursday.

The report, by the Office of Technology Assessment, co-chaired by Sen. Bill Clinton, said that the industry's own figures suggested that it spent only about \$8 billion on research and development, or approximately \$2 billion less than the \$10 billion it spends on advertising and marketing.

"This advertising and marketing is not just wasted money," he said. "It's money that could be used to cut drug prices."

The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association said Thursday that the report was wrong in its assumptions.

It said the report had made mistakes in calculating tax rates, the benefits of holding a patent and the value of overseas sales.

But Bob Allmott, the association's executive vice president, noted that the U.S. health-care industry had undergone changes over the last 10 years.

Mr. Allmott pointed in particular to the proposals being considered by Mr. Clinton to overhaul the system and said that calls for managed competition would help bring about "ferocious competition" that would reduce prices.

(UPI, APX)

ICI Clears Deck With Huge Charge

By Erik Ipsen

International Herald Tribune

LONDON — It was "undoubtedly a momentous day" for Imperial Chemical Industries, said the chairman, Sir Denis Henderson, indeed. ICI, Britain's largest manufacturer, announced Thursday that it was charging off a whopping \$949 million (\$1.38 billion) against earnings to lay off thousands of workers, sell operations and otherwise prepare for the spinoff of its pharmaceuticals business this year.

Sir Denis said that in spite of widespread criticism of the timing, the company would split itself in two at mid-year and ask stockholders to buy new shares worth £1.3 billion to help pay down debt.

The spinoff of the drugs business as Zeneca Group PLC, first mooted by ICI last July, is to be presented to shareholders in May and is to take place by June, barring a catastrophe like a stock-market collapse, company officials said.

"The board are convinced that we must look beyond recession and that this is an appropriate moment to proceed," Sir Denis said.

The package of demerger and corporate cleanup agreed with investors, even though the charge, booked with 1992 results, plunged ICI into a \$384 million pretax loss for the year.

ICI's stock rocketed up 7 percent to close 75 pence higher at £11.53 a share on the London exchange. Stock analysts said they could not immediately be certain how much the new ICI and Zeneca shares would together be worth, advancing estimates that ranged from £11.60 to more than £14.

ICI stockholders will get one Zeneca share for each ICI share

they own, as well as the invitation to buy more Zeneca stock in the rights issue, which will be one of Britain's biggest ever.

The exceptional charge of \$949 million breaks new ground even for ICI, long seen as one of the chemical industry's most aggressive cost cutters. It will cover a restructuring program that, among other things, will mean ICI

will shed an additional 9,000 jobs over the next three years at a cost of £300 million in severance payments. Also included are factory shutdowns, discharge of pollution liabilities and write-downs.

"Businesses that do not perform will have to be restructured or closed earlier than in the past as we simply cannot afford to carry passengers," said Ronnie Hampel, the

company's chief operating officer.

ICI's 1992 operating profit on sales of just £12 billion was \$565 million. That profit represented a 28 percent drop from the previous year but was broadly in line with market estimates for what was widely seen as the worst year for the chemicals industry in more than a decade. Nonetheless, Sir Denis referred to the result as "not at all a satisfactory outcome."

Almost all of ICI's profit last year came from its pharmaceuticals division. Even there, profit fell to \$494 million from £538 million in 1991.

It will be the pharmaceuticals business, as Zeneca, that will be responsible for raising funds to fund the financial cushion for the chemicals businesses that will be left behind in the new ICI businesses that are expected to face a few more quarters of dire operating conditions. As Sir Denis put it, "A child has to do some repaying to its parent for all the help it has gotten."

Zeneca, although far smaller than the new ICI, will shoulder half the burden of paying next year's dividend. That dividend was set Thursday at not less than 27.5 pence a share for each of the two companies, a amount that equals the current year's dividend for the group.

Much of the criticism over Zeneca's rights issue has centered on the beating the pharmaceuticals industry as a whole has taken in the stock market in recent weeks. David Barnes, who will be Zeneca's new chief executive, dismissed market concerns that health reform programs in the United States would be injurious to the wellbeing of drug companies. He noted that the

See ICI, Page 13

DEC Cuts Irish Jobs, Raising EC Tension

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

DUBLIN — Ireland lost Thursday in a contest with Scotland to keep jobs at Digital Equipment Corp. facilities, beating up the rancorous dispute among EC members over employment.

DEC said it would close its factory in Galway, costing 780 jobs by February 1994. The announcement was a bitter blow for the Irish government, which had lobbied the company to make cuts at its other European plant, which is in Ayr, Scotland.

The Irish town will retain DEC's European software headquarters, employing 350 people, and the company will keep 350 sales and service staffers in Dublin.

An Irish official said Dublin had asked the European Community to investigate reports that Britain was "bending the rules with inducements to Digital." The EC Commission said it would look into the matter, Ireland said.

EC solidarity is being stretched by unhappiness about recession, job losses and factory closures as the member countries fight to retain shares in a shrinking pie.

Britain has been involved in many of the disputes. Having opted out of the social chapter of the Treaty on European Union, Britain can offer employers lower costs than many other EC nations. The decision last month by Hoover Co. to shift jobs from France to Scotland set off protests by Paris about what has been called "social dumping."

Both cases are among a string of company transfers such as the closure of a Scottish chocolate factory by Nestlé, which is moving to Newcastle and Dijon, and plans by Grundig to shift a television plant from France to Austria.

(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

Nonetheless, for a company that reported income of more than £3 billion, the financial pain of Showa Shell was easily forgotten. It was made even more so, ironically, by an accounting change that gave Shell a £149 million credit on its Showa Shell stake last year.

Sir Peter summed up the business climate faced by his company last year as "though one to make money in." In spite of the rise in net income, he noted that only marginal improvement in the oil and gas busi-

ness, and none whatsoever on the chemicals side. What good news there was to be found last year came chiefly from expanding markets in Asia and Latin America.

In chemicals, Shell reported its first loss in a decade, a downturn blamed on overcapacity, particularly in Europe. Peter Vogtlander, Shell's chemicals coordinator, said that the fact that many inefficient plants were state owned prevented them from being shut down and thus easing the overcapacity.

—ERIK IPSEN

Shell Gains Despite Currency Fiasco

International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Although smarting from the currency-trading losses of its Japanese subsidiary, Royal Dutch/Shell Group reported Thursday an 8 percent increase in net income for last year.

The British-Dutch concern, the biggest European company, also warned it would have to persist in cost-cutting and asset sales because of a tough world oil market.

Shell earned £3.12 billion (\$4.48 billion) last year, up from £2.89 billion in 1991. On a historic-cost basis, which includes gains on oil inventories, income rose 27.5 percent, to £3.06 billion. Revenue fell 5.3 percent, to £55.03 billion.

Sir Peter Holmes, chairman of the British part of the company — Shell Transport & Trading Co. — said he thought the concern did "pretty well" in 1992. But at a press conference following the release of the results, most of the questions centered not on oil, gas or chemicals but on currencies.

Over the weekend, Showa Shell Sekiyu, half-owned by Royal Dutch/Shell, revealed it lost about \$1 billion by betting in the futures market that the dollar would rise

against the yen. Those losses Thursday resulted in the resignations of four top executives of the company, Japan's leading oil refiner and distributor, and the firing of a fifth.

Shell previously said the currency losses would slide £131 million out of its 1992 earnings, and on Thursday it revealed an additional loss of £65 million would fall in the first quarter of this year.

Noting that Showa Shell in Japan had built up positions in the foreign-exchange futures markets totaling \$6.4 billion, Shell executives stressed the company was only an associate, not a full-blown subsidiary, and that the currency speculation had been completely unauthorized. "It was a gross concentration of established rules and practices which was deliberately concealed," said John Jennings, a Shell group managing director.

The company said it was reviewing its relationships with its associate companies. Showa Shell itself will get more than a review from its half owner, it will next month get a new director of financial affairs in the person of Neil Gaskell, who is currently a Shell pension fund manager in London.

ANNOUNCEMENT

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

THE SHEPHEARD HOTEL

The Egyptian Hotels Company, an affiliated company of the Tourism Holding Company, owned by the Government of Egypt, announces the proposed divestiture of the Shepherd Hotel.

The hotel owes its name to the original historic hotel which was first built in 1841, before it was removed to its present location. It enjoys a prime 3,500 square meter site on the Nile only minutes from Cairo's main business and commercial centre and has been substantially renovated during the past few years.

The hotel, which is a fifteen story building with 264 rooms and 28 suites is currently operated by Helnan Company under a long term management agreement.

Parties interested in this unique opportunity may obtain necessary information describing the assets for sale, on writing to the financial agent name below, stating in full their activities, legal and financial status and source of funds.

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Evergreen Building
Cairo-Egypt
Tel. (202) 776 931

Applications can be received until
Wednesday 31st of March 1993.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	\$	£	DM	FF	Yen	SFR	Sw	Sc	Other
American	1.000	0.756	1.936	6.559	137.603	1.666	1.366	1.483	1.000
British	1.327	1.000	2.593	8.756	181.261	2.071	1.771	1.927	1.327
French	0.153	0.157	1.000	16.659	333.757	6.559	5.478	5.945	0.153
German	0.521	0.524	0.603	1.000	200.483	1.666	1.366	1.483	0.521
Japanese	0.007	0.007	0.008	0.007	1.000	0.016	0.013	0.014	0.007
Swiss	0.736	0.736	0.848	0.736	1.000	1.666	1.366	1.483	0.736
Scandinavian	0.693	0.693	0.805	0.693	1.000	1.666	1.366	1.483	0.693
Other	0.680	0.680	0.792	0.680	1.000	1.666	1.366	1.483	0.680

Eurocurrency Deposits									
	Dollar	DM	Swiss	French	Yen	ECU			
1 month	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%			
3 months	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%			
6 months	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%			
1 year	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%	3 3/4%			

Source: Reuters, LIBOR Bank

MARKET DIARY

OTC Issues Survive Amgen's Plunge

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks rose Thursday as a late round of computer-driven buy orders buoyed prices and an uptick in Treasury bond yields failed to dampen investors' appetite for shares.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 8.64 to 3,365.14, extending Wednesday's 33.23-point gain. Advancing common stocks outweighed decliners by a margin of 4 to 3 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Views on U.S. Growth Lift Dollar Against Mark

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the yen, but only very slightly, ahead of a meeting of the Group of Seven industrial nations this weekend in London.

The dollar fell to a record low 115.85 yen last Monday amid speculation that G-7 ministers would push for a stronger Japanese currency to curb Japan's trade surplus.

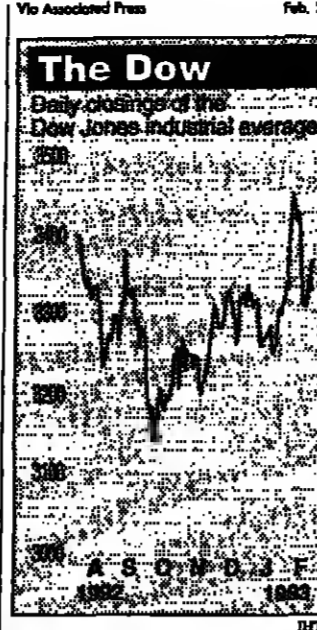


Table of NYSE Most Active stocks including Amgen, Intel, and others with their respective prices and volume.

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U.S. Jobless Claims Gain

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans filing initial claims for jobless benefits rose slightly in mid-February, the first advance in a month, the government said Thursday.

Despite the one-week increase, "claims are running at rates consistent with continuing, moderate gains in employment."

Clinton Hints at Tobacco Taxes

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton sought to shore up support Thursday for his economic package by showcasing business and labor leaders who back it, then hinted that higher tobacco taxes could be needed to offset soaring health-care costs.

U.S. Rejects a 'Windows' Trademark

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government has rejected Microsoft Corp.'s application to make the word "Windows" a trademark for the name of its best-selling computer software, the agency said Thursday.

Crandall Calls for Aviation Policy

WASHINGTON (Combined Dispatches) — Robert L. Crandall, chairman of American Airlines Inc., said Thursday that the United States should adopt a new international aviation policy based on three tenets.

Nikko Faces U.S. Lawsuit

WASHINGTON — U.S. stock market regulators charged the U.S. subsidiary of Japan's Nikko Securities Co. in a federal civil lawsuit on Thursday with filing inaccurate documents that did not properly report \$18 million in trading losses.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Large table of world stock market data for various countries including Amsterdam, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Brussels, Johannesburg, Frankfurt, London, Zurich, Sao Paulo, Singapore, Stockholm, and Montreal.

U.S. FUTURES

Table of U.S. futures market data for various commodities like grains, metals, livestock, and financial instruments.

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Table of industrial stock market data for various companies and sectors.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Bonn Warns France On 'Fortress Europe'

By Brandon Mitchener
International Herald Tribune

BONN — Angered by France's stubborn stand on bananas and other agricultural trade matters, Germany sent increasingly strong signals this week that it is fed up with its neighbor's "Fortress Europe" rhetoric.

Regarding the six-year-old Uruguay Round of trade talks, Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, said, "We have reached a point where our view does not always coincide with that of France."

"We have shown solidarity with France, which we know has serious problems, up to the point of self-denial," he said Thursday in an interview with the German daily Die Welt. "Now it is up to France to show solidarity with Germany, which is especially dependent on free trade."

By problems, he was referring to French parliamentary elections next month in which the ruling Socialists are expected to be toppled from power.

On Tuesday, Chancellor Helmut Kohl also criticized France for taking an increasingly hostile line toward GATT, saying Germany would not participate in the construction of a Fortress Europe.

"No one should harbor any illusions that anything might be gained by building a fortress mentality or an isolationist policy," Mr. Kohl said. "Advantages may be obtained in the short term but if you consider the overall view you will always find that the balance is negative."

Mr. Kohl was responding to a statement by President François Mitterrand of France, who had said last week that the European Community "must help France to bear the shock of the importation of thousands of items which come from Southeast Asia. Let us organize ourselves in Europe and with Europe establish protection for our production."

But the Germans are particularly irked by a French-inspired European Community plan to impose restrictive quotas and tariffs on bananas imported from Central America. Germans are the world's biggest per-capita consumers of bananas.

"We cannot let the protectionist stance that showed up in the banana regulations spread into any other areas," Mr. Kinkel said, noting that the proposed banana regime would wreak havoc with some banana-dependent Central American economies.

Mr. Kinkel also described as "unacceptable" a warning by Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy that France would use its veto if ministers of the European Community were asked to approve a draft agreement with the United States on oilseeds.

Mr. Kinkel said the only hope of frustrating protectionist tendencies was for "France to renounce the step that would provoke a trade war between the European Community and United States."

Russians Consider Repegging The Ruble

Reuters

MOSCOW — Russia's central bank is prepared to sacrifice free-market principles and reintroduce a fixed exchange rate for the ruble to protect it from speculators and soaring inflation, Lenta.ru news agency reported on Thursday.

The agency said it had obtained a draft document on bank policy that read, in part: "The Bank of Russia is ready to propose the introduction of a fixed ruble rate from April 1, 1993."

The document has been sent to parliament for discussion but not yet distributed to deputies.

The ruble has nosedived from 162.6 in the dollar last August to a record low of 593 Thursday on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange, as investors seek the U.S. currency as a hedge against rampant inflation. Large-scale intervention on the market by the Bank of Russia has had little effect.

The ruble hit 418 to the Deutsche mark on Wednesday, down from 340 at the previous trading session.

The ruble was floated on the inter-bank exchange last July as the first step to convertibility. The measure was part of wide-ranging reforms to create a market economy.

The exchange accounts for just 4 percent of hard-currency sales in Russia but is of key importance, since the bank uses the rate of the exchange's sessions to set its own benchmark.

The bank document said, however, that the Moscow exchange was too vulnerable to speculation.

"This makes the floating ruble rate an unsuitable instrument for transferring foreign currency into rubles in commercial and fiscal transactions," it said.

The bank said it proposed to fix its buying and selling rates based on rates on currency exchanges, commercial bank rates, the national balance of payments, money supply and the buying power of the ruble for different commodities.

The bank would intervene to reset the value of the ruble if the rates established by banks or exchanges approached the floor or the ceiling.

The bank said the plan could work only if enough hard currency were made available on the market and it suggested using \$1 billion from a stabilization fund that the International Monetary Fund granted Moscow last year.

Den Danske Slides Into Loss

Reuters

COPENHAGEN — Den Danske Bank A/S joined the ranks of Scandinavia's unprofitable banks on Thursday, but said it saw improvements already this year.

Denmark's biggest bank reported a swing to a loss of 1.74 billion Danish kroner (\$279 million) for 1992, from a 1.34 billion kroner profit the year before, but stock analysts were encouraged that loan-loss provisions rose only marginally, to 2.94 billion kroner.

"Continued cost containment and measures to bring down provisions are moving profits in the right direction," said the managing director, Knud Soerensen, in a 1993 outlook predicting slightly lower credit losses.

Analysts have forecast that Danske Bank, known for its conservative lending policies and regarded as the healthiest of the major Nordic banks despite the 1992 loss, will return to a net profit of around 1 billion kroner this year.

Like all major Nordic banks, Danske has been hit by big loan losses caused by economic recession, falling property, share and bond prices and an insurance-sector crisis.

Although Danish banks probably will not need to seek state bailouts, as many other Nordic banks have already done, Danske's Mr. Soerensen stressed that 1992 had been an exceptionally bad year.

He said a 1.4 billion kroner decline in the value of the bank's stock portfolio — which suffered because of low economic growth and the Danish "no" to the European Community's Maastricht

treaty last year — was the main reason for the 1992 loss. Mr. Soerensen said a "yes" vote on the treaty in a second Danish referendum due on May 18 was essential for the bank's 1993 prospects.

Denmark's top 20 shares fell almost 30 percent last year, with most of the fall registered after the June vote.

The portfolio valuation loss included a capital loss of 575 million kroner on shares suspended on the Copenhagen bourse at the end of 1992, the bank said, apparently referring to its stake in the Danish insurer Mathia Holding A/S.

The 1992 result was also burdened by extraordinary items of 513 million kroner in connection with staff cuts.

Danske Bank's core banking operations generated a profit of 3.6 billion kroner before loan-loss provisions, up from 3.2 billion in 1991.

Denmark's third-biggest bank, Sparakassen Bikuben, reported a record 1.2 billion kroner net loss on Monday, and the fourth-biggest, Jyske Bank, came in with a 919 million kroner loss on Wednesday.

Soerensen stressed that 1992 had been an exceptionally bad year.

He said a 1.4 billion kroner decline in the value of the bank's stock portfolio — which suffered because of low economic growth and the Danish "no" to the European Community's Maastricht

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
1800	2000	2100
1700	1900	2000
1600	1800	1900
1500	1700	1800
1400	1600	1700
1300	1500	1600
1200	1400	1500
1100	1300	1400
1000	1200	1300
900	1100	1200
800	1000	1100
700	900	1000
600	800	900
500	700	800
400	600	700
300	500	600
200	400	500
100	300	400
0	200	300

Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Previous Close	% Change
Amsterdam	CBS Trend	99.80	99.80	0.00
Brussels	Stock Index	5,966.18	5,978.69	-0.21
Frankfurt	DAX	1,658.91	1,644.24	+0.89
Frankfurt	FAZ	650.57	648.10	+0.38
Helsinki	HEX	938.41	928.73	+0.83
London	Financial Times 30	2,176.50	2,172.90	+0.17
London	FTSE 100	2,628.70	2,617.00	+0.42
Madrid	General Index	227.50	223.90	+1.65
Milan	MIB	1,122.00	1,108.00	+1.26
Paris	CAC 40	1,944.64	1,953.39	-0.45
Stockholm	Affarsvaerlden	1,166.96	1,168.26	-0.11
Vienna	Stock Index	375.75	374.67	+0.29
Zurich	SBS	702.20	703.00	-0.11

Sources: Reuters, AFP
International Herald Tribune

French Wine Exports Fall For First Time in 20 Years

Reuters

PARIS — French exports of wines and spirits fell in 1992 for the first time in 20 years as recession battered markets.

Exports fell 1.5 percent to 34.2 billion francs (\$6.2 billion) overall, while wine exports dropped 2.9 percent and champagne sales abroad tumbled 9.3 percent, the French wines and spirits exporters' federation said on Thursday.

"The prospects for 1993 seem to be a repetition of the mediocre year in 1992," said Claude Taittinger, the champagne producer.

Producers who had previously capitalized on Britain's burgeoning taste for wine were hit by a sharp drop in the value of the pound since last September. They also lost 6.9 percent of the German market, once the most lucrative in the world.

The most flourishing market was the United States, where exports grew by 17.6 percent. However, that could change as the United States threatens to impose punitive import duties on white wine if France resists a world trade accord under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

SKF Halts Payout As Loss Widens Amid Recession

Reuters

GOTHENBURG, Sweden — SKF AB, the Swedish ball-bearing maker, reported Thursday a loss of 1.78 billion kroner (\$226 million) for 1992 and scrapped its dividend for the first time in 70 years.

SKF had prepared the stock market by predicting in December that its 1992 loss would widen to about 1.8 billion kroner from 221 million in 1991, paving the way for the first default in the payout to shareholders since 1923.

Continuing recession in the company's main European markets led to a sharp decline in automobile output and hence demand for SKF's ball-bearings and seals.

The weakening market led to a fourth-quarter deficit alone of 1.42 billion kroner.

"The 1992 year closed rather weakly and the new year began equally weakly," said a company spokesman, Lars Malmer. "It looks as if 1993 could also become a year of loss."

Despite the car-industry downturn, SKF said it had secured new contracts, including wheel-bearing units equipped with a sensor for General Motors' new Opel Vectra.

SKF took a one-time 1.1 billion kroner charge in 1992 for restructuring, which entails the loss of 4,000 jobs, and said a further 1,000 jobs would disappear next year.

Paris Should Seek Reform Of EC Grid, Says Soros

Reuters

PARIS — France must take the initiative to reform Europe's exchange-rate mechanism because it is the main victim of the monetary storm blowing across the continent, George Soros, the billionaire financier, said Thursday.

Mr. Soros, who made almost \$1 billion by betting against the pound before its forced exit from the exchange-rate mechanism in September, told the French daily Le Figaro that the only way to preserve the European Community was to recognize that the mechanism had broken down and to plan a new one.

"It is important to find a solution before Europe, and France in particular, plunges into depression," he said.

Mr. Soros said sticking to a strong-franc policy simply for the sake of the European union goal was counterproductive.

ICI: Clearing Decks for Breakup

(Continued from first finance page)

Industry had survived many such jitters moments in the past.

"I remain confident that this is the time to go," said Mr. Barnes of the split and its ensuing cash call. Analysts, however, expressed disappointment that ICI had chosen to raise money under the banner of Zeneca, given that the existing ICI PLC enjoys a far higher market

rating than Zeneca as a stand-alone entity is expected to have.

Although Mr. Barnes conceded that Zeneca's profits had suffered after the patent expiration of Temmin, the heart drug that was its leading profit maker, he pointed out that in spite of that, the company's total drug sales still managed to rise last year. Beyond that, the company was at pains to claim that it had more promising drugs under development than at any time in the last 20 years. Still, analysts suggest that ICI might have been well advised to wait until some of those drugs had proven themselves before trying to raise £1.3 billion.

On the chemicals side of the business, the story sketched by ICI was similarly hopeful. Sir Denis insisted that the markets for industrial chemicals should be turning up by the second half of the year. But many outsiders suggest that ICI may be anticipating things a bit, that the chemicals recovery will likely wait until next year.

Those earnings could grow, of course, as the new riverboat begins service, and the company hopes to expand to Louisiana and Missouri. But this spring it will face competition from a new riverboat, situated closer to St. Louis, and several more competitors are on the way.

"There can be no assurance the company will be able to compete successfully," is the way the prospectus puts it.

There is one more factor that shareholders might want to consider. The company says that the accommodation fee may have caused it to run afoul of certain tax provisions dealing with the question of whether the \$5 million loan for which the fee was paid was really a loan at all.

Argosy says it thinks it could win a court fight over the issue, but decided against seeking a legal opinion before the offering. If it loses, the company will owe \$10 million in taxes.

All of this was disclosed in the prospectus, but gambling stocks were hot at the time of the offering. No doubt the insiders hope Argosy will be successful for many years to come. But it is clear that they will be big winners even if Argosy fails.

NYSE Thursday's Closing

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

(Continued)

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	52 Wk High	Low	Latest Cl	Chg
120	110	IBM	3.00	2.7	13	120	110	115	+5
100	90	Microsoft	0.00	0.0	15	100	90	95	+5
80	70	Apple	0.00	0.0	12	80	70	75	+5
60	50	Oracle	0.00	0.0	10	60	50	55	+5
40	30	Sun	0.00	0.0	8	40	30	35	+5
20	10	Northern	0.00	0.0	6	20	10	15	+5
10	5	WorldCom	0.00	0.0	4	10	5	7	+2
5	2	Verizon	0.00	0.0	3	5	2	3	+1
2	1	AT&T	0.00	0.0	2	2	1	1.5	+0.5
1	0.5	Qwest	0.00	0.0	1	1	0.5	0.7	+0.2

NYSE High-Lows

NEW HIGHS 18

Symbol	Company	Price
ABR	Amber	12.50
ADP	ADP	11.25
ADT	ADT	10.75
ADW	ADW	10.25
ADZ	ADZ	9.75
ADX	ADX	9.25
ADY	ADY	8.75
ADZ	ADZ	8.25
ADX	ADX	7.75
ADY	ADY	7.25
ADZ	ADZ	6.75
ADX	ADX	6.25
ADY	ADY	5.75
ADZ	ADZ	5.25
ADX	ADX	4.75
ADY	ADY	4.25
ADZ	ADZ	3.75
ADX	ADX	3.25
ADY	ADY	2.75
ADZ	ADZ	2.25
ADX	ADX	1.75
ADY	ADY	1.25
ADZ	ADZ	0.75
ADX	ADX	0.25

NEW LOWS 15

Symbol	Company	Price
ABR	Amber	12.00
ADP	ADP	11.00
ADT	ADT	10.50
ADW	ADW	10.00
ADZ	ADZ	9.50
ADX	ADX	9.00
ADY	ADY	8.50
ADZ	ADZ	8.00
ADX	ADX	7.50
ADY	ADY	7.00
ADZ	ADZ	6.50
ADX	ADX	6.00
ADY	ADY	5.50
ADZ	ADZ	5.00
ADX	ADX	4.50
ADY	ADY	4.00
ADZ	ADZ	3.50
ADX	ADX	3.00
ADY	ADY	2.50
ADZ	ADZ	2.00
ADX	ADX	1.50
ADY	ADY	1.00
ADZ	ADZ	0.50
ADX	ADX	0.00

NEW HIGHS 23

Symbol	Company	Price
ADP	ADP	11.50
ADT	ADT	11.00
ADW	ADW	10.50
ADZ	ADZ	10.00
ADX	ADX	9.50
ADY	ADY	9.00
ADZ	ADZ	8.50
ADX	ADX	8.00
ADY	ADY	7.50
ADZ	ADZ	7.00
ADX	ADX	6.50
ADY	ADY	6.00
ADZ	ADZ	5.50
ADX	ADX	5.00
ADY	ADY	4.50
ADZ	ADZ	4.00
ADX	ADX	3.50
ADY	ADY	3.00
ADZ	ADZ	2.50
ADX	ADX	2.00
ADY	ADY	1.50
ADZ	ADZ	1.00
ADX	ADX	0.50

NEW LOWS 11

Symbol	Company	Price
ADP	ADP	11.00
ADT	ADT	10.50
ADW	ADW	10.00
ADZ	ADZ	9.50
ADX	ADX	9.00
ADY	ADY	8.50
ADZ	ADZ	8.00
ADX	ADX	7.50
ADY	ADY	7.00
ADZ	ADZ	6.50
ADX	ADX	6.00
ADY	ADY	5.50
ADZ	ADZ	5.00
ADX	ADX	4.50
ADY	ADY	4.00
ADZ	ADZ	3.50
ADX	ADX	3.00
ADY	ADY	2.50
ADZ	ADZ	2.00
ADX	ADX	1.50
ADY	ADY	1.00
ADZ	ADZ	0.50

AMEX High-Lows

NEW HIGHS 23

Symbol	Company	Price
ADP	ADP	11.50
ADT	ADT	11.00
ADW	ADW	10.50
ADZ	ADZ	10.00
ADX	ADX	9.50
ADY	ADY	9.00
ADZ	ADZ	8.50
ADX	ADX	8.00
ADY	ADY	7.50
ADZ	ADZ	7.00
ADX	ADX	6.50
ADY	ADY	6.00
ADZ	ADZ	5.50
ADX	ADX	5.00
ADY	ADY	4.50
ADZ	ADZ	4.00
ADX	ADX	3.50
ADY	ADY	3.00
ADZ	ADZ	2.50
ADX	ADX	2.00
ADY	ADY	1.50
ADZ	ADZ	1.00
ADX	ADX	0.50

NEW LOWS 15

Symbol	Company	Price
ADP	ADP	11.00
ADT	ADT	10.50
ADW	ADW	10.00
ADZ	ADZ	9.50
ADX	ADX	9.

SPORTS BASKETBALL

Powers Keep Falling As Kentucky Is Upset

The Associated Press
KNOXVILLE, Tennessee — Tennessee never got a chance to draw up a play to beat No. 2 Kentucky, which was probably just as well. It's hard to plan a miracle.

With 49 seconds left and his team down by 77-74, Tennessee's Allan Houston was fouled. He made the first free throw to make it 77-75, but another point would not have helped.

So, in the basketball version of a Hail Mary pass, he missed the second one and hoped.

Tennessee's Jermaine Brown flashed down the lane and tipped it. It rimmed out, but Corey Allen rebounded, scored, got fouled and made

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

the free throw with 1.5 seconds left to give the Vols an improbable 78-77 victory over the Wildcats Wednesday night.

"I didn't want it to bounce too long," Houston said. "I just shot it off center and kind of flat, and got a lucky bounce."

It was a tough loss for the Wildcats, who probably lost a sure move up to the No. 1 ranking in the next poll since top-ranked Indiana had been upset the night before.

"We haven't been in that many games like this, and I think it was very good for us even though we came away with the loss," Kentucky coach Rick Pitino said.

The Cats had overcome a nine-point halftime deficit to take a 70-64 lead with three minutes left, but couldn't hold on.

The loss dropped Kentucky (20-3, 20-3) into second place in the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division behind Vanderbilt, a winner over Georgia. Tennessee improved to 12-13 and 4-9.

No. 9 Duke 98, No. 6 Florida State 75: Bobby Hurley set a school record with 16 assists as the Blue Devils rolled over Florida State in Durham, North Carolina.

Hurley, who added 16 points, now has 1,019 assists, 20 shy of the NCAA record held by Chris Corchiani of North Carolina State.

Antonio Lang, picking up the slack for injured Grant Hill, scored a career-high 17 points as the Blue Devils (21-5, 9-5 Atlantic Coast Conference) broke Florida State's eight-game winning streak.

It was the fifth straight time Duke has beaten an opponent with a higher ranking, dating to November 1990.

The Seminoles (21-7, 11-3) fell a half game off the conference lead held by No. 3 North Carolina.

No. 8 Vanderbilt 87, Georgia 83: Billy McCaffrey scored a career-high 35 points, and his eight straight foul shots in the last 1:46 of overtime led Vanderbilt at Athens, Georgia.

The Commodores (22-4, 11-2 Southeastern Conference) have won five in a row and 11 of 12 Georgia (11-12, 5-8) forced the extra period on Dathon Brown's 3-point basket with six seconds left in regulation.

Clemson 76, No. 12 Wake Forest 74: Chris Whitney starred at both ends of the court, scoring 20 points and stealing the ball from Rodney Rogers in the final seconds as Clemson won at home.

Rogers, the ACC's leading scorer, had 27 points. He was setting up for a 3-pointer when Whitney stripped the ball with 3.5 seconds left.

Clemson (13-10, 3-10 Atlantic Coast Conference) beat a ranked team for the first time in 10 tries this season. Wake Forest (17-6, 8-5) lost its second in a row.



Celtic center Joe Kleine has trouble holding onto the ball under the offensive boards against Nets' Chris Dudley.

Riley's Ejection Gives Knicks the Motivation

The Associated Press
MILWAUKEE — So who needs Pat Riley? The New York Knicks do most of the time, but Wednesday night they did just fine after the coach was ejected in the fourth quarter.

The Knicks overcame a 13-point deficit in the final period and beat the Milwaukee Bucks 91-90 as John Starks hit a pair of free throws with 2.6 seconds left.

"Whenever the coach gets thrown out of the game you're supposed to pick up your play," said

Warriors 120, Jazz 108: Coach Jerry Sloan was ejected with two minutes remaining, and the Jazz, which trailed the entire second half, lost to the Golden State Warriors for the third time this season, 120-108, in Oakland.

Karl Malone, who finished with 23 points and just 7 rebounds, had his second straight subpar game, following a 15-point performance Tuesday against Houston.

Celtics 103, Nets 88: Reggie Lewis scored 31 points and helped hold Drazen Petrovic to 4-of-14 shooting as Boston won at home to break a four-game losing streak.

NBA HIGHLIGHTS

Starks, who scored 11 of his points in the last quarter as the Knicks won for the 11th time in 12 games.

"It was a good move on Pat Riley to do that. I think it got us fired up. Sometimes a coach does things for a reason and I think he did that for a reason," Starks said.

The Knicks were called for five technicals, including two on Riley.

"I wasn't doing them any good. I was worthless out there," said Riley, who departed with the Bucks leading by eight and 9:27 remaining.

After Riley was tossed, Milwaukee increased the lead to 13 with 6:35 to go and still was ahead by 11 with 4:52 remaining. But Starks and Doc Rivers hit 3-pointers and Oakley made a three-point play as the Knicks went on a 14-4 run, pulling within 87-86 with 57 seconds to play.

Celtic Parish Admits Marijuana Charge

The Associated Press
WALTHAM, Massachusetts — Boston Celtics center Robert Parish admitted to possession of marijuana on Thursday. He will have the charge dismissed if his record is clean for six months.

The nine-time All-Star and, at 39, the oldest player in the league, waived a jury trial and admitted there were sufficient facts to warrant the charges, the normal procedure for a first-time offender in Massachusetts.

New Rules Aim to Curb Costs And Technology in Formula 1

Agence France-Press
PARIS — Motor racing's ruling bodies are to press ahead with new rules to curb the spiralling cost of Formula One, despite fears of a head-on collision with British team McLaren, officials announced Thursday.

Max Mosley, president of the International Auto Sports Federation or FISA, also announced that the Williams-Renault team will be able to defend its constructors' title this season and that the French Grand Prix will go ahead on July 4.

The moves were announced at a three-way news conference of the umbrella International Automobile Federation, its competition arm FISA, and the Formula One Constructors Association.

"It would have been completely wrong not to have Williams Renault in the championship," Mosley said.

The Anglo-French team had failed to make their application for the 1993 season by last November's deadline and needed the support of smaller teams and then a vote to be included in the new season, which starts at Kyalami, South Africa on March 14.

The inclusion of the French Grand Prix also was widely expected after France's motor federation allowed fears that the country's anti-tobacco legislation would cause problems for tobacco-sponsored teams.

Mosley outlined a series of measures to reduce the costs of the sport for smaller teams from 1993 to 1995.

Practice times will be cut this season, along with the number of tires which a team can use, and provisions for the spare car will be reduced.

Measures planned for 1994 will outlaw sophisticated drivers' aids, such as computers and telemetry, and introduce a single engine per car for an entire event, capable of lasting 600 kilometers (375 miles) instead of 300 kilometers. Both need to be approved by FISA's world council on March 18.

"The elimination of driver aids is not an attack on the technology of a Formula One car," Mosley said. "It is recognition that there are more and more devices to assist the driver — to the point very soon the driver will have little or no driving function."

"We want to stop the driver getting into the car with a computer. It's not Nintendo, it's the Formula One world championship."

The moves have been criticized by McLaren, which has made a substantial investment in new technology for its cars.

But both Mosley and Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone stressed that the new moves did conform to the so-called Concord Agreement between teams and motorsport officials, although they were late in being announced.

Looking to 1995, Mosley said that FISA was planning rules for stepped-bottom designs, which would allow Formula One cars to race on American oval circuits, along with refueling regulations and silencing.

Mosley said he would like to see Formula One cars competing one day in the Indianapolis 500.

But he said that the immediate issue was to cut the cost of Formula One.

"You're going to have to stop it sooner or later, and I believe the sooner we do it, the less money will be wasted."

Mosley said new developments would reduce the driver's input still further, with the computer taking control of braking and steering.

"In five years' time, it'll be possible for a computer to complete a circuit at race speed," he said. "It's getting to the point where people will start just looking for a 40-kilo (88 pound) driver who can withstand the G-forces."

But he acknowledged that not everyone would welcome FISA's move and that the latest moves would not suddenly make all teams equal.

"The engineers are always unhappy if you take away the toys," he said.

Japanese Hold Off Norway

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
FALUN, Sweden — Kenji Ogiwara became a double winner at the World Nordic Ski Championships Thursday, leading Japan to the Nordic combined team title, but Norway appeared unstoppable in the overall standings.

Ogiwara, who won the individual gold medal Friday, anchored the Japanese trio to a 3:46-minute win over Norway, Germany was third.

Ogiwara joined Norwegians Bjorn Dablie and Espen Bredesen as the only double champions among the men. Dablie won the 30 kilometer and the two-day pursuit in cross-country while Bredesen captured the large-hill ski jumping gold and led Norway to the large-hill team title.

Norway, which has rebuilt its Nordic team to a dominant force ahead of next winter's Olympics in Lillehammer, has swept five golds in the first week of the 11-day festival, winning every men's event except the combined.

Meanwhile Thursday, Russia cruised to a 19:4-second victory over Italy in the women's 4 by 5 kilometer cross-country relay. (A.P. Reuters)

Betting Against the Bulls? You're On!

By Michael Wilbon
Washington Post Service
 What we want to know about the second half of the National Basketball Association season, which started this week, is:

Will the two-time defending champion Bulls break out of their disturbing habit of playing to the level of opposition? Do the Bulls, though they have the best record in the league, play good enough defense to make the kind of playoff run we all seem to be expecting? Will the Spurs and Knicks return to earth, facing a string of tough road games? Will the Cavaliers develop enough meanness over the next eight weeks to threaten the Bulls or Knicks in May? Is Seattle lacking anything now that Sam Perkins is aboard?

The in thing to do at the moment is to pick anyone other than the Bulls. Bill Cartwright and John Paxson are injured, Cliff Levingston is overseas, Scottie Pippen's ankle has slowed him down noticeably, and Michael Jordan is admittedly tired.

Obviously, the Bulls aren't dominating the regular season the way they did a year ago, when they flirted with winning the still unreached total of 70 games before setting for 67.

When the second half started, the Bulls had only the fourth-best record in the league, having lost twice to lowly Philadelphia and at home to Charlotte and Orlando. And the obsession of their general manager, Jerry Krause, with his own draft choices (like holding onto Stacey King and chasing Toni Kukoc all over Europe) at the expense of getting immediate help could cost the Bulls a third consecutive title.

However, the fact is, the Bulls have won every game they've had to win, without exception, this season. Seattle won 18 of its first 19 home games; their only loss was to the Bulls,

after 37,000 in the Kingdom. The Bulls are 21-1 at home; their only loss was to the Bulls, and the game wasn't close.

In compiling a league-best record of 18-9 on the road, the Bulls have won at Cleveland, at Utah, at Portland, at the Clippers, at Charlotte, at Orlando, at New Jersey. They took the Spurs to the buzzer in San Antonio before losing. And they lost at New York on Thanksgiving weekend when Jordan got hurt in the first quarter.

This is "in trouble!" The Bulls also get a break in the playoffs because, assuming they finish No. 1 in the Eastern Conference, they'll have to play only the Knicks or the Cavs, not both.

At the moment, Charles Barkley is the only thing standing in the way of Patrick Ewing and his first Most Valuable Player award. It's in vogue to pick the Knicks because they play the best defense since the Bad Boy Pistons, but their backcourt has to stabilize.

What do the past nine NBA champions have in common? Great and steady guard play. Magic, Dennis Johnson & Danny Ainge, Isiah Thomas & Joe Dumars, Jordan & Paxson & Pippen. It's going to take some doing for John Starks, Doc Rivers, Rolando Blackmon and Greg Anthony to step into that company. Ewing, who is having his best all-around season, is dependent on what his backcourt does.

The Cavaliers have the best record in the league over the past 35 games, and they ought to, considering their talent. With Brad Daugherty, Mark Price, Craig Ehlo, Larry Nance, Hot Rod Williams and Terrell Brandon, only the Suns are as talented. Danny Ferry gradually is becoming the player we thought he'd be, and Gerald Wilkins is the eighth man.

Problem: no dominant personality, no fierceness. They've shown no willingness whatsoever to knock anybody down in May, which is like sending Pippen and Jordan engraved invita-

tions to go gaga. This is Cleveland's third and probably final chance to overcome Chicago, which could be significant. The Pistons needed three years to overtake the Celtics, as the Bulls did to overtake Detroit.

So, great talent, too nice. Their team mascot should be Ernie Banks.

If Miami, with all its talent, doesn't catch Atlanta for the final playoff spot, it ought to be off with Kevin Loughery's head after yet another unimpressive coaching stint. Another in thing to do is pick Charlotte as the Eastern sleeper, which isn't crazy considering the fact that Larry Johnson and Alonzo Mourning continue to get better every month. But counting on the Muggsy Man to lead a second-half charge is a bit risky. My sleeper is the Nets.

Laugh if you want, but they're better than the Knicks at three out of five starting spots (Kenny Anderson, Drazen Petrovic and Derrick Coleman).

The Western Conference is twice as overrated, especially if the Clippers get Dennis Rodman, before the trading deadline. Mark Jackson, Ron Harper, Stanley Roberts, Danny Manning and Rodman (Kenny Norman off the bench) is serious, very serious. But so is Seattle with Perkins and Shawn Kemp up front. So is San Antonio, with John Lucas having brought out the best in David Robinson by making him share in the management of the team.

Still, the team to beat in the West is Phoenix. The Suns' problem is allowing opponents 48 percent shooting, which is alarmingly high. And you wonder if all those three-pointers the Suns are firing now will be available in the postseason (see Terry Porter vs. M. Jordan in the '92 finals). Over the next eight weeks, the Suns, since they don't have a great defender, are going to have to figure out which combinations of players can compensate for defensive deficiencies around the basket.

DENNIS THE MENACE



PEANUTS



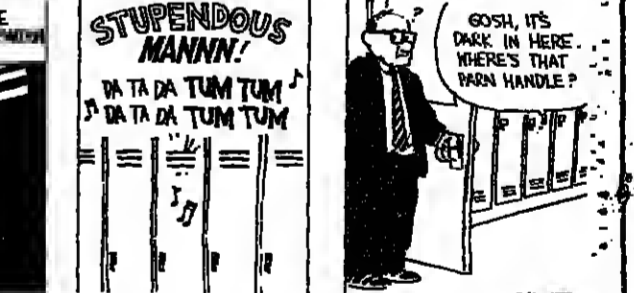
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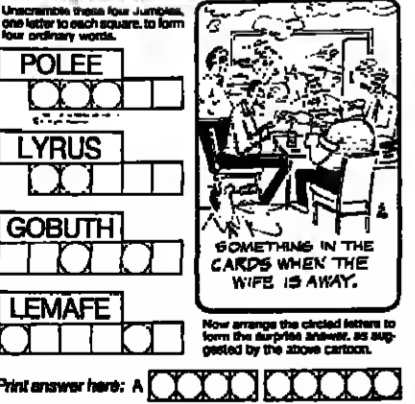
CALVIN AND HOBBES



STUPENDOUS MANN!



JUNBLE



BLONDIE



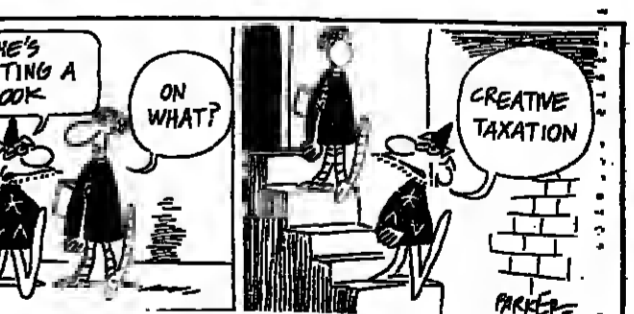
BEETLE BAILEY



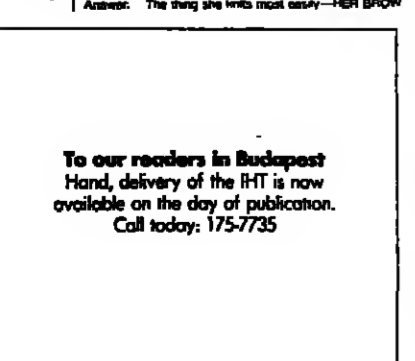
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SPORTS

The Boss Is Back: A Gentler George For the Yankees?

By Jack Curry
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — George Steinbrenner is having fun again. He is in demand again and he is loving it, no matter how valiantly he tries to disguise it. There are still three days left before his two-and-a-half-year baseball suspension ends and he returns to power with the New York Yankees, but it seemed more like four minutes as a busy Steinbrenner hustled around his hotel suite. The telephone has been ringing incessantly and the appointment book has grown thicker as Monday approaches and the memory of Steinbrenner's \$40,000 payoff to Howard Spira for damaging information on Dave Winfield grows dimmer. Steinbrenner has gradually crawled back into the public eye and his name, face and words have been bounced around New York for fans to remember just who the Boss is. How could they ever forget?

First, there were the print and broadcast advertisements trumpeting his return, followed by a comical Sports Illustrated cover depicting the 62-year-old Steinbrenner dressed as Napoleon and sitting on a white horse. There were television sound bites and newspaper interviews, and Steinbrenner will christen his return from exile at 12:01 A.M. Monday by appearing live on WFAN-AM all-sports radio for two hours. That just happens to be the radio station that broadcasts Mets games. Yes, Steinbrenner the promoter is back.

Hours after the radio interview, the principal owner will walk, jog or sprint into the Yankees' spring training complex in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to make his grand return as the man in charge of the most storied and most successful franchise in baseball history. Steinbrenner would say only that he would arrive before noon and he would not be dressed like a French emperor or riding a white horse, like the magazine cover, which he said was his way of poking fun at his return. Then he smiled and said other details of Monday's agenda were confidential.

He hinted that he would like to reduce the role he had previously had as managing partner by funneling more ideas through Joseph Molloy, his son-in-law and the managing partner until Sunday, but his exultant voice revealed how difficult that would be for him. Steinbrenner claimed that he might show a gentler side of his personality this time around and conceded it annoyed him that the Yankees have floundered recently.

"It bothers me a lot that we've slipped," said Steinbrenner, whose permanent ban was commuted by Commissioner Fay Vincent last July after three Yankees-related lawsuits against baseball were dropped. "I owe something to the fans and to New York. When we don't do well, I take that very personally. The thing that upsets me the most is when New Yorkers feel I'm not doing the job for them. That's no bull. That's the way I feel."

Steinbrenner spoke on numerous topics Wednesday, including some potential new employees. It is no secret that Steinbrenner would love to bring Reggie Jackson back to New York. He respects the Hall of Fame slugger and it would probably create a new spate of Reggie-George stories to dominate the news. But his fondness for former Yankees has grown to at least three players.

WHEN asked about speculation that he was interested in hiring Jackson, Willie Randolph and Tommy John, he said: "That's true. There is a lot of truth to that. I wouldn't mind having any of those three in on the decision-making process on personnel and players. I think they're exceptional. Whether they would want to do full time or I think they would want to do part time, I don't know. I think they would want to do part time."

Already George is confirming Reggie, Willie and T.J. rumors, dreaming about the World Series and making a shrewd promotional move by getting serious air time on the station that broadcasts his major competition. Oh, let's not forget his stint on CNN's Larry King show or the signal he is sending to the Yankees by comparing them to the last major league team to win consecutive World Series, the 1977-78 Yankees.

"This team can be anything it wants to be," Steinbrenner said. "That is how I feel about them. I felt the same way about our teams in the mid-70s. This team can do anything it wants if it wants it bad enough. The ball is squarely in their court."

Pressure? Just a bit. But Steinbrenner is thrilled with the five new players the Yankees obtained, he contended the club has a nice mixture of youth and experience and insisted the pitching staff is the best in years. That may mean the Boss wants immediate results.

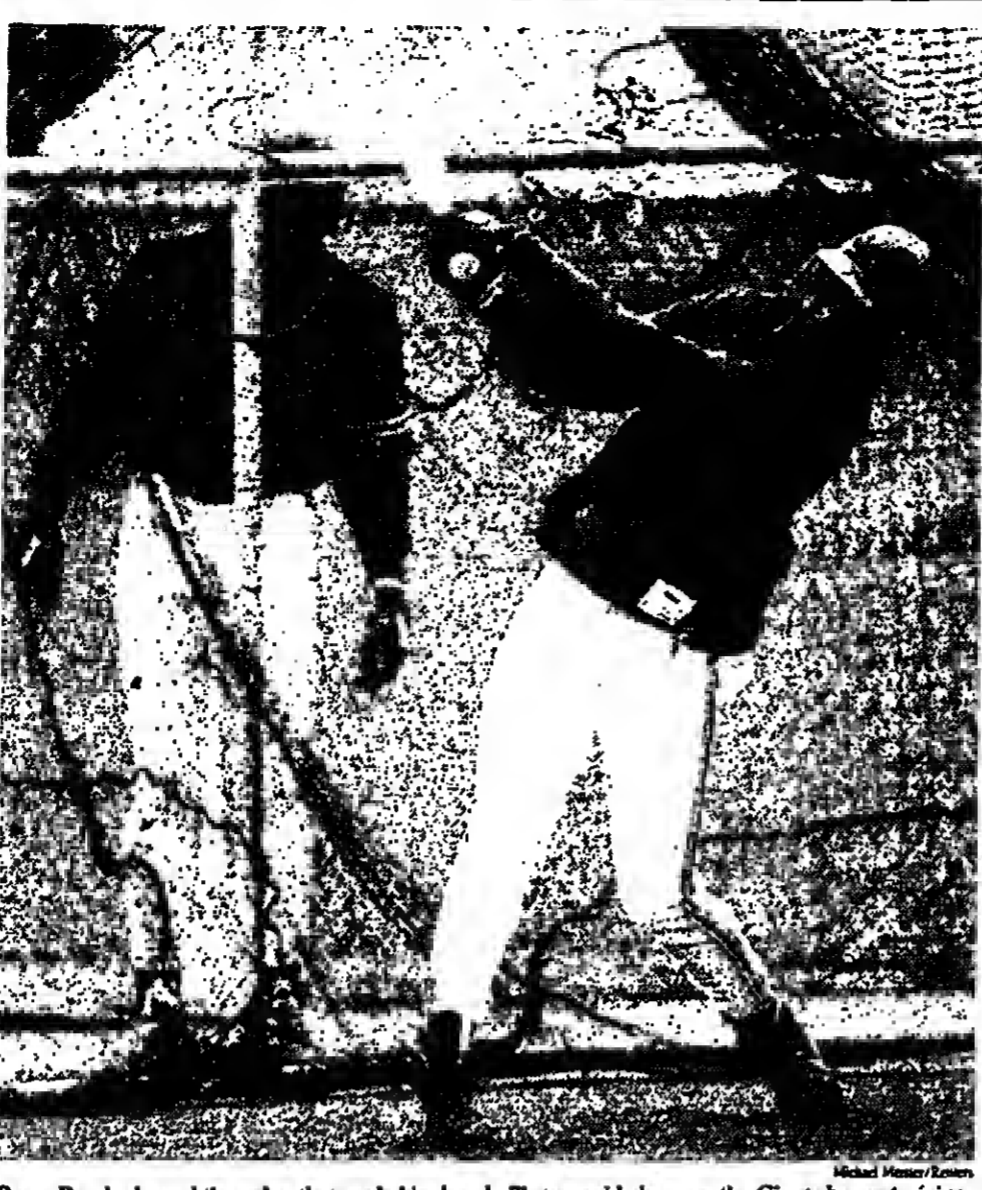
"If any of the players don't give 100 percent dedication, they can't expect to win. Maybe I can get that message through to them." The Yankees should be prepared because Steinbrenner plans to address them Monday about tradition and dedication. Although Steinbrenner said he would ask Buck Showalter for permission to speak with the players, does he really think his manager will say no? So Steinbrenner, brimming with ideas on player diets, ways to reduce back stress and increase intensity after watching baseball on television for two and half years, said he has plenty to offer. And he is anxious to capitalize. Rick Cerone sent him a barbecue with "The Boss Is Back" inscribed across it as a Christmas gift and Steinbrenner has turned it into his own Yankee uniform by wearing it every day.

"I'm going to work to see if we can cover the little details to give us an advantage," Steinbrenner said. "If you take care of the little details, the bigger things take care of themselves."

The bigger things Steinbrenner is certainly expecting bigger things, like increased attendance, more exposure for the Yankees, more exposure for him and maybe, just maybe, some late season excitement at Yankee Stadium. Steinbrenner would probably keep talking about it into October.

"This isn't D-Day and I've been trying to keep it light," Steinbrenner said. "But I've been set upon by the media. I don't mind that. I kind of feel good about that. At least someone cares that I'm coming back."

FOOTBALL



Barry Bonds showed the swing that made him baseball's top-paid player as the Giants began training.

Baseball's Big Money Men Check In for Work

The Associated Press

The big boppers with the bulging wallets showed up at spring training. Barry Bonds, who signed a record \$43.75 million, five-year contract, arrived at the San Francisco Giants' camp in Scottsdale, Arizona, on Wednesday while Cecil Fielder, who agreed to a \$36 million, five-year deal with Detroit, arrived at the Tigers' complex in Lakeland, Florida.

On his first day with his new team, Bonds had to run for his money. "I've never run so much," he said. "We stretched for 30 minutes, ran three miles, stretched some more and then did sprints. My back got real tight."

"I'm not used to that kind of running," he added. "I'm not accustomed to the new program. I'll be happy when April comes and the running is over."

Bonds, selected twice as National League Most Valuable Player while he was with the Pittsburgh Pirates, said he understands the attention his status brings. But he doesn't enjoy it.

"We're entertainers, dude, and as long as there's television, pay," he said. "The sports

world entertains people more than anyone, and they see us on a daily basis. Why dwell on my contract? Talk about David Letterman's contract. Enjoy the show, it's not going to change. We pay a lot of taxes — even more now. Cut us some slack. There's a lot more to life than to be hickering or whining over money."

Fielder has led the major leagues in runs batted in for the last three years. The only other player to do that was Babe Ruth from 1919-1921.

"You know how the public is going to be," Fielder said. "They are going to expect like that. It was pretty tough. It was a lot of fun, though."

At Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Don Mattingly of the New York Yankees began preparations for his 10th full season with the same enthusiasm he had entering the first.

"I love what I'm doing. When I come back, I can't wait to get out there," Mattingly said. "There's competition. It's a battle every day. It's definitely a high to be there every day to perform and compete."

Mattingly, who turns 32 in April, has chronic back problems and hasn't come close

to putting up statistics similar to his MVP year of 1985, when he drove to 145 runs. "I always said at the end I want nothing to look back about," he said. "I want to walk away and not say, 'I wish I did this or I wish I did that.'"

Schott Stays Away
Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott, only four days from his suspension from baseball, arrived in Florida but had no immediate plans to visit the club's training camp, The Associated Press reported from Plant City, Florida.

General manager Jim Bowden, who earlier this week urged Schott to meet with players to clear the air by discussing her alleged racial slurs, said Thursday he changed his advice to Schott after meeting with players the day before.

Bowden wanted to let players share their feelings about Schott, who will start a one-year suspension on March 1, and the session apparently went well.

"I'll tell you, Jim Bowden is a straightforward guy," said shortstop Barry Larkin. "It went well."

Young a 'Franchise' Pick In NFL's Free Agency

By Mark Asher
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The San Francisco 49ers decided to name quarterback Steve Young as their "franchise" player on Thursday, the deadline for each of the NFL's 28 teams to designate as many as three protected players in the new free agency system.

But sources at most NFL teams during the past two days said the 49ers would be among a minority opting to designate a "franchise" player. Teams naming a franchise player own sole negotiating rights to him but are also required to make an opening offer that would put him among the top five players at his position.

According to 49ers president Carmen Policy, the team made an effort to sign Young, the NFL's most valuable player last season, before the deadline. "But, with everything else going on, it's too complicated to get done, even by March 1."

In teams' decision-making process ahead of the deadline, three trends emerged:

• Teams were not going to take risks on giving gigantic pay raises to either the franchise or the two "transition" players that can be named this year. Transition players can be retained when a team exercises its right-of-first-refusal by matching any contract offer the player receives from another team.

• A number of star players, like Washington Redskins tackle Jim Lachey, were to be protected as transition players even though they

would not be free agents. For instance, the Indianapolis Colts were to name defensive tackle Steve Emtman and linebacker Quentin Coryatt, who are under contract through 1995. They were the top two selections in the 1992 college draft. Pittsburgh was expected to do the same with AFC rushing leader Barry Foster, as was Dallas with wide receiver Michael Irvin, both of whose contracts expire after the '94 season.

Teams found it almost impossible to sign their potential franchise and transition players — or any other of the more than 300 unnamed veterans with five years of NFL service.

The hearing at which federal judge David Doty is expected to give preliminary approval to the settlement agreement is scheduled Friday. After that, "We don't know what will happen," Policy observed. "We're all navigating through new waters."

Young, who made \$2.5 million last year, not including incentives, will get a minimum offer of \$3.265 million for next year. By comparison, Miami's Dan Marino is scheduled to make \$4.3 million this season. All-pro defensive tackle Pierce Holt, whom Policy said he would have made the franchise player had he been able to sign Young early, will be one of his two transition players.

Sources said six teams definitely would not name a franchise player, with seven more unlikely or leaning toward not doing so. Another six teams were either not disclosing

what they would do or, in the words of New York Giants General Manager George Young, were "hemming and hawing" until the last minute.

Only five teams indicated they would designate a franchise player — the 49ers, the Redskins (linebacker Wilber Marshall), the Colts (linebacker Duane Bickett), the Philadelphia Eagles (defensive end Reggie White) and the Phoenix Cardinals (safety Tim McDonald).

White, whom the Redskins reportedly coveted, and McDonald are among the 20 name plaintiffs in the class-action antitrust litigation settlement whose movement cannot be inhibited. By naming them as franchise players, the Eagles and Cardinals would earn an extra draft choice, likely to be in some stage of the first round. It does not affect other teams' pursuit of them.

League sources say Houston and Buffalo would name franchise players and Tampa was deciding whether to designate offensive tackle Paul Crober.

Buffalo's top choice for that status appeared to be offensive tackle Wil Woolford.

Comeback Rolls On For Austin

Readers

INDIAN WELLS, California — Tracy Austin spiced her comeback with an impressive 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 upset of second-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria in the \$375,000 Evert Cup.

In the first round Tuesday, Austin, the 1979 and 1981 U.S. Open champion and a former No. 1 player, won her first match in nearly nine years.

But she was admittedly shell-shocked with her victory over the 12th-ranked Maleeva. "Do I look like I just got hit with a sledge hammer?" the 30-year-old Austin said. "It felt really good to have a match where you put it out. I haven't done that in a long time. I'm still in shock."

Austin and Maleeva contested most of the points from the baseline. Austin's mobility and her concentration on the crucial points gave her the win. "The heart really came through when it had to," she said.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlantic Division			
Team	W	L	Pct
New York	30	16	.652
New Jersey	30	24	.556
Orlando	25	23	.521
Philadelphia	22	25	.463
Washington	17	29	.366
Central Division			
Team	W	L	Pct
Chicago	29	17	.629
Cleveland	26	19	.577
Charlotte	22	24	.479
Atlanta	20	27	.426
Indiana	19	28	.404
Detroit	17	29	.371
Milwaukee	17	29	.371
WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Midwest Division			
Team	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	33	19	.633
Utah	31	21	.594
Houston	27	24	.528
Denver	21	30	.412
Portland	12	29	.293
Dallas	7	46	.130
Pacific Division			
Team	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	29	17	.629
Seattle	27	17	.613
Portland	27	18	.600
L.A. Lakers	27	24	.528
L.A. Clippers	27	29	.483
Golden State	24	28	.463
Sacramento	17	26	.396

CRICKET

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

India vs. West Indies in Cape Town, South Africa. West Indies (1st Innings): 47 (111 overs). West Indies (2nd Innings): 47 (111 overs). India (1st Innings): 47 (111 overs). India (2nd Innings): 47 (111 overs).

HOCKEY

NHL Standings

WALEY CONFERENCE			
Patrick Division			
Team	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	30	18	2
Washington	22	24	2
New Jersey	22	24	2
N.Y. Rangers	22	24	2
Philadelphia	21	29	2
Adams Division			
Team	W	L	T
Montreal	28	19	2
Quebec	24	18	2
St. Louis	22	24	2
Buffalo	21	27	2
Hartford	16	44	2
Ottawa	12	44	2
Campbell Conference			
Morris Division			
Team	W	L	T
Chicago	24	20	2
Detroit	22	24	2
Toronto	20	24	2
Minnesota	20	24	2
St. Louis	16	44	2
Tampa Bay	12	44	2
Smythe Division			
Team	W	L	T
Vancouver	24	19	2
Calgary	22	24	2
Los Angeles	22	24	2
Winnipeg	22	24	2
Edmonton	22	24	2
San Jose	8	52	2

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 4, Leeds 2. Nottingham Forest 1, Queens Park Rangers 1.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

CLEVELAND — Agreed to 4-year contract with Tony Eusebio, Eddie Taubensee and Danny Geronzi international scouts.
BOSTON — Agreed to 1-year contract with Scott Tucker, catcher; Steve Rios and Rob McElroy, pitchers; and Willie Andrews, Chris Hatcher, Brian Hunter and Gary Adair, outfielders.
LOS ANGELES — Signed Don Wakeman, catcher; Billy Assler, outfielder; and Greg Hershell, pitcher.
N.Y. METS — Agreed to 1-year contract with Kevin Bess, shortstop.
BASEBALL
NBA — Signed Fred McLeod, forward.
ST. LOUIS — Signed George Belfrage and Scottie Bowman, Chicago forwards for missing a new conference during NBA All-Star Weekend.
MILWAUKEE — Put Todd Day, guard, forward on injured list. Signed Derek Strone and Alex Stivins, forwards to 10-day contracts.
N.Y. KNICKS — Put Rolando Blackman, guard, on injured list. Activated Eric Anderson, forward, from injured list.
SEATTLE — Put Rich King, center, on injured list. Activated Steve Swisher, center, from injured list.
FOOTBALL
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
DENVER — Signed George Belfrage and Steve Anderson, Cleveland defensive back, off waivers from Cleveland Browns.
HOUSTON — Moved Tom Berta, linebacker, coach.
INDIANAPOLIS — Named Fred Bruner, general offensive coach.
KANSAS CITY — Named John Burnina, assistant defensive coach.

WALSLEY CONFERENCE

English Premier League

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SIDELINES

Tributes Planned for Bobby Moore

LONDON (AP) — The Football League asked all clubs to observe a minute's silence before Saturday's games in memory of Bobby Moore, the captain of England's 1966 World Cup championship team who died Wednesday of cancer at the age of 51.

It was just one of many tributes planned a man considered a legend in British sporting history. The Football Association said it was planning to designate the stairs to Wembley's royal box as the "Bobby Moore steps" and introduce a Bobby Moore Trophy competition.

Orioles Owner Reported Near a Sale

BALTIMORE (AP) — Eli S. Jacobs has agreed to sell the Orioles baseball team for \$140 million to a group of investors led by Cincinnati investment banker William O. DeWitt Jr., according to a Baltimore newspaper.

The Baltimore Sun, quoting unnamed sources, said the deal was being reviewed by Jacobs' creditors, who are pressing for repayment of millions of dollars in overdue loans.

Boxer Nunn Faces Weapons Charge

ORION, Illinois (AP) — WBA super middleweight champion Michael Nunn was arrested on an alcohol and weapons charge early Thursday after being pulled over for driving in what authorities said was an erratic manner.

Nunn, 29, from Davenport, Iowa, was charged with illegal transportation of alcohol and unlawful use of a weapon. He was freed after posting \$100 bond.

West Indies Embarrass Pakistan

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — The West Indies set a record in one-day international cricket Thursday when they bowled out World Cup holders Pakistan for only 43 runs.

The West Indies needed just 19 overs and five deliveries to dismiss the Pakistanis on a treacherous pitch. The previous lowest run total was Canada's 45 against England in a 1979 World Cup match at Old Trafford, Manchester.

The Western Australian Cricket Association fired the groundsman who was criticized for having prepared a perfect pitch that emboldened the West Indies to thrash Australia by an innings in the crucial fifth test last month.

ESCORTS & GUIDES

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED

(Continued From Page 9)

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ART BUCHWALD

Pity the Poor Rich

WASHINGTON — The rich have been taking a terrific beating lately. From President Clinton on down to a lowly congressman, everyone has been making the wealthy the political issue of the year.

"Why us?" Grossbart asked his accountant Ken Able. "Why not you?" Ken replied. "Everybody wants to be rich. Why are they mad at us?"

"Because you're not feeling pain. By failing to pay your fair share of taxes, you've been living off the fat of the land." "I haven't paid my share because you wouldn't let me. Your advice was, 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but how many tax loopholes you can find in your country.'"

"Able said, 'The middle class despises you.' "I don't despise the middle class. I love them. Whenever I meet people from the middle class at a Safeway or at a football game, I go out of my way to be nice to them. Almost all my relatives are middle class, except for a few insurance lawyers who live in New Jersey."

Ken said, "Don't worry about people's attitudes hurting you. Even when you pay all the new taxes you will still be rich." "Yes, but will Clinton still hate me?"

"Clinton doesn't hate you, but you're the only thing he has as an example of what is wrong with America." "He wasn't too upset with me when he needed money for his campaign."

"Grossbart, you can't get distressed by all the envy in the land. Rich people have never been loved by those who mow their own lawns." "I replied, 'Nobody ever complains about the oil companies.' 'A lot of industries get breaks, but people don't know about them. What bothers America when it comes to the rich is that they can deduct their meals, their transportation and even their theater tickets as legitimate expenses. To many Americans this is unfair.' 'We wouldn't do it if it wasn't in the Constitution.' 'Where is it in the Constitution?'"

"In the second amendment where it says about the right of the people to keep and bear arms." "That has nothing to do with a citizen's wealth." "Well, it should have."

Ken said, "There is no getting away from it. You are going to have to pay more than your share. Congress can't afford to let you off the hook the way they did during the Reagan-Bush years."

"It's so unfair," Grossbart said. "I started poor, became a workaholic, climbed to the top and wound up filthy rich. Now they want me to pay for it." "Not all of it. You'll still have enough money to purchase a Super Bowl ticket."

China's Cultural Climate: Warming Trend

By Nicholas D. Kristof

BEIJING — Throughout the ideological and cultural worlds, Chinese are again testing the limits, and mostly getting away with it. Bold films, plays and books are appearing, newspapers are becoming readable, China's foremost rock 'n' roll star is back on stage, and sex and democracy (in that order) are again on the agenda.

The kind and gentle face of communism, a young woman in a silk blouse who is the anchor for the evening news, has been opening the broadcast in recent weeks with a smile and a greeting that is startling in what it leaves out: "Good evening, viewers."

In one of those signals that the ideological winds have shifted, the cultural world is opening up, she and the other news anchors have abandoned the previous greeting. "Viewers and comrades, good evening," which the hard-liners have insisted on for three years.

"Comrades" is not just a word in China but a storm signal. Whenever it is hoisted, it is a warning that the cultural commissars are on patrol. When it is dropped, people know they can have fun again.

"The government's lightening up," said a Chinese journalist who has been in political trouble for most of the last few years. "We can breathe again."

The novelty of having interesting or entertaining things to do has a political dimension as well. A few years ago, when the hard-liners were at the apex of their power, most ordinary workers and young people did not feel so much repressed by communism as bored by it.

When pressed about the reasons for their alienation, they did not mention the lack of a vote so much as the lack of decent entertainment. The problem with the newspapers and television, in the minds of many people, was not so much that they lied but that they were so excruciatingly dull.

Now that is changing. Soap operas appear on television to supplement the documentaries on tractor factories. At the cinema, Hong Kong kung fu films have replaced propaganda movies about gallant Communist Party officials dying young.

Some of the new books and newspaper articles are about politics, including careful calls for more democracy, but the taboo that artists and audiences are breaking with the greatest zeal has to do with nudity and sex.

"Nudity" declared the Culture Ministry newspaper in a huge Chinese character superimposed over a photo of a Western woman's partly unclothed torso. The accompanying article was a sober discussion



Rocker Cui Jian: Dancing is making a comeback as an antidote to boredom.

of the lack of nudity in Chinese films, but the photo could scarcely have been more out of place in a newspaper that until recently was a bastion of orthodoxy. "We're now trying to reform the newspaper and push it onto the market system," said Zhang Zuomin, an editor. "Of course, there may be a few problems here and there. But our direction is the right one."

Theaters in both Beijing and Shanghai have experimented with partial nudity on stage, but in Shanghai a couple simulated love-making behind a glass panel and in Beijing an actress wore flesh-colored underwear. In the southern city of Shunde, which has never been renowned for either culture or restraint, a floor show features a young woman disrobing under a strobe light for what purports to be an artistic shower scene.

a cheap booklet whose cover is a pastiche of tiny photos of naked buttocks and breasts. "Selected Cases of Young Women Molested Around the Nation," the headline reads in bold red characters. A one-paragraph preface explains that the publisher's purpose is to alert women to the dangers of rape and sexual abuse. The next 75 pages provide examples.

"The cultural environment reflects the fact that the overall political atmosphere is more relaxed now, and the economy is doing well," said He Xin, a social critic who is identified with the hard-liners and now appears to be trying to refurbish his image. "Sure, the opening may generate some problems, but that's O. K. The scale of the problems is very small."

Controls over films have been eased, and Chinese viewers have finally been able to see the movies of Zhang Yimou, the Chinese director whose productions "Jodou" and "Raise the Red Lantern" were banned at home while being nominated for Academy Awards in the United States.

Moreover, young filmmakers are learning that they can largely ignore the authorities. When a veteran Chinese actor returned recently to Beijing from an extended stay abroad, he marveled that young people were putting together rock 'n' roll films without getting approval from anyone.

"That never used to be possible," he told them in awe. Cui Jian, China's best-known rock musician, was allowed to hold a large concert in Beijing at the end of December for the first time in several years. Every seat was taken, and the fans cheered and shouted and danced as the police watched stonily from their seats; just a couple of years ago, a man who tried to dance at a rock concert was dragged off by the police.

The authorities last month allowed Chinese to operate private ham radio stations for the first time, and discos and karaoke bars are sprouting throughout the country. Newspapers are starting weekend entertainment sections, and the afternoon tabloids in particular are writing about crime, scandals and pop stars.

Occasionally they even publish news. The Communist Party has had to warn the New People's Evening News in Shanghai three times in the last few months about its new-found enthusiasm for publishing scoops.

"Journalism is changing extremely rapidly," said a Chinese journalist who is reporting about changes in the newspaper industry. "Plenty of publications will lose their subsidies this year, so all of a sudden they're scrambling for readers. They'll never be the same."

PEOPLE

James Joyce May Be Back in the Courts

Lawyers for the estate and the grandson of James Joyce have notified Viking-Penguin that they will sue the publishing house if it goes ahead with plans to publish next month what it has promoted as a newly discovered work by Joyce titled "Finn's Hotel." The prospect of the book's publication caused a stir in literary circles when Danis Rose, an independent Joyce scholar in Dublin, announced last fall that he had discovered a collection of previously unpublished Joyce short stories. Established Joyce experts have called Rose's assertions fraudulent.

Michael Milken, the former Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. financier who was released from prison last month, has prostate cancer but expects to resume "as active and normal a life as possible," he said in a press release. It is unclear how Milken's health will affect the remainder of his sentence for securities violations. His attorney said Milken had submitted a proposal for how he intends to fulfill 1,800 hours of court-ordered community service but Federal District Judge Kimba Wood, in Manhattan, must approve the program.

Gary Coleman, the former television star of "Diff'rent Strokes" was awarded nearly \$1.3 million by a judge who ruled that Coleman's parents and business adviser siphoned funds from his earnings. Coleman, 25, sued in 1989, alleging that his parents, Willie and Edmonia Coleman, and his former business adviser, Anita De Thomas, mismanaged his money and misappropriated assets for their own benefit.

The Duchess of York, whose jet-set holidays in Switzerland, Thailand and Morocco made newspaper headlines in recent months, is taking her latest holiday at a more modest English seaside resort. The estranged wife of Prince Andrew took her two daughters to Torquay. She rented a minibus and drove her party, which included her sister and her bodyguards, around the area.

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INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED Appears on Pages 13 & 17

Strike Blocks Opening Of Paris Matisse Show

PARIS — Striking museum workers forced the cancellation Wednesday of the official opening of "Henri Matisse: 1904-1917," at the Pompidou center.

The strike forced cancellation of the invitation-only inauguration of the show Wednesday, and raised doubts as to whether it would open to the public as scheduled Thursday. The museum workers were demanding better job security and protesting a hike in admission fees.

WEATHER

Weather forecast section including maps for Europe, Asia, and North America, with temperature and precipitation data for various regions.

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution to the puzzle for Feb. 24.

BOOKS

OFFICIAL AND CONFIDENTIAL: The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover. By Anthony Summers. Illustrated, 528 pages, \$23.95. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. As Summers sees it, members of the Mafia hired Lee Harvey Oswald. They were fed up with the Kennedys for harassing them through the Attorney General's Office, a double-cross in their minds because they had helped to elect the president by delivering phony votes in Chicago.

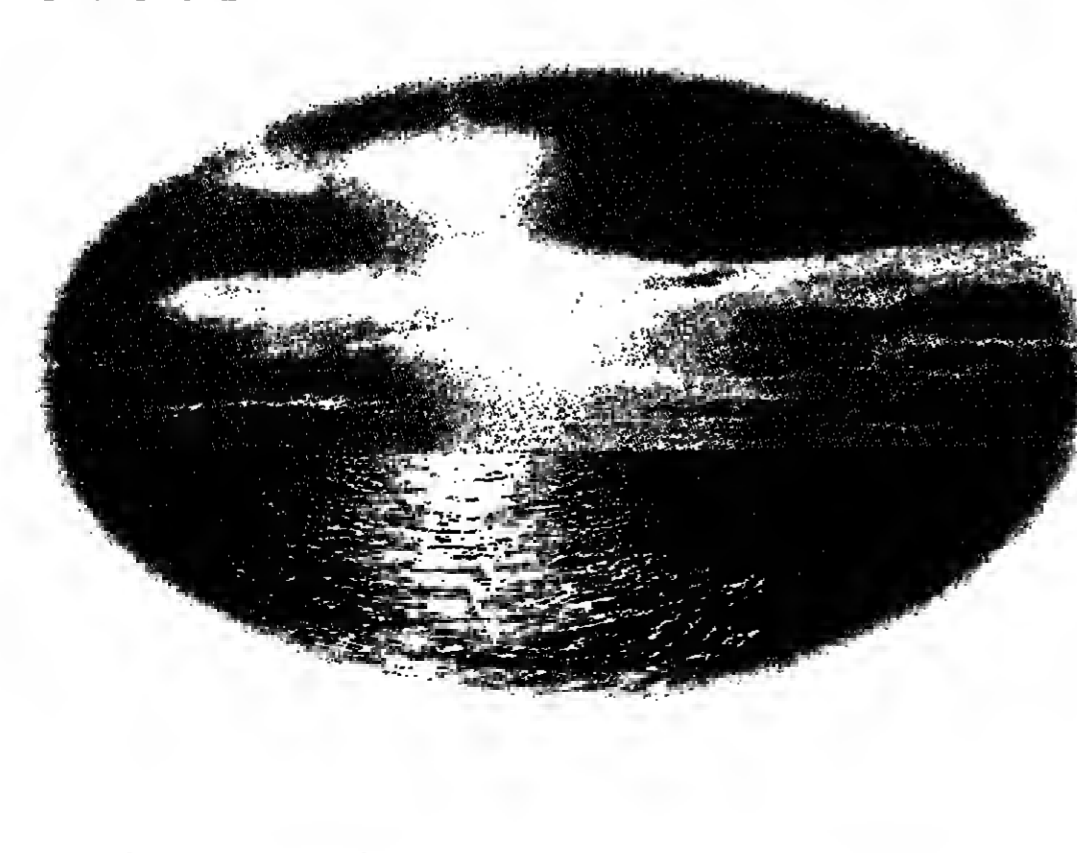
These are the most astonishing of the author's accusations, but they barely surpass a half-dozen or so others, the most extreme of which are that Hoover ignored an early warning of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and that he conspired with Lyndon B. Johnson to blackmail the Kennedys into designating Johnson as John Kennedy's running mate.

One of Summers' previous books, "Goddess: The Secret Lives of Marilyn Monroe," was not unimpressive for its writer of evidence on the actress's clandestine ties to John and Robert Kennedy. In researching his book on Hoover, the author conducted more than 800 interviews and consulted much previously concealed documentation.

Yet there is a slapdash quality to the writing and presentation of "Official and Confidential." More seriously, Summers' documentation is unsatisfying. To back up many of his charges he cites single sources, yet fails to weigh for the reader their reliability. He leaves us to figure out for ourselves from ill-organized and impenetrable source notes whether his findings are first- or second-hand.

By Alan Truscott. A TEAM event that is sometimes played in Britain but is rare on the other side of the Atlantic requires players to rotate partnerships, thus diminishing the impact of sophisticated bidding methods. A New York Competition has used this format since 1986, and the winning foursome in play on Feb. 6 was headed by Edgar Kaplan, his teammates were Judy Tucker, Gail Greenberg and Dorothy Truscott, all from New York.

Kaplan team gained 12 imps, for the game was not reached in the replay. NORTH: A 1 2, K 4, 8 6 5 2, A Q 6 3. WEST: 10 8 5, 10 8 5, A J 3, J 8 4. EAST: Q, Q J 7 5 3, K Q 10 7, K 10. SOUTH (D): K, 1 8 8 4 5, A 2, 8 4, 7 5 2.



Get your point across in no time.

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